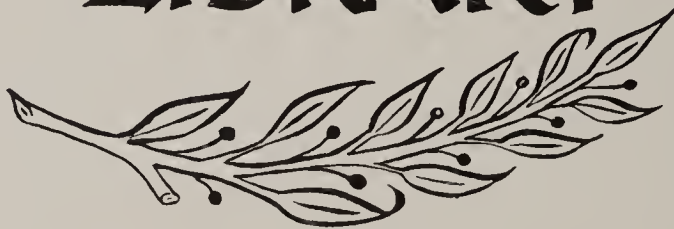
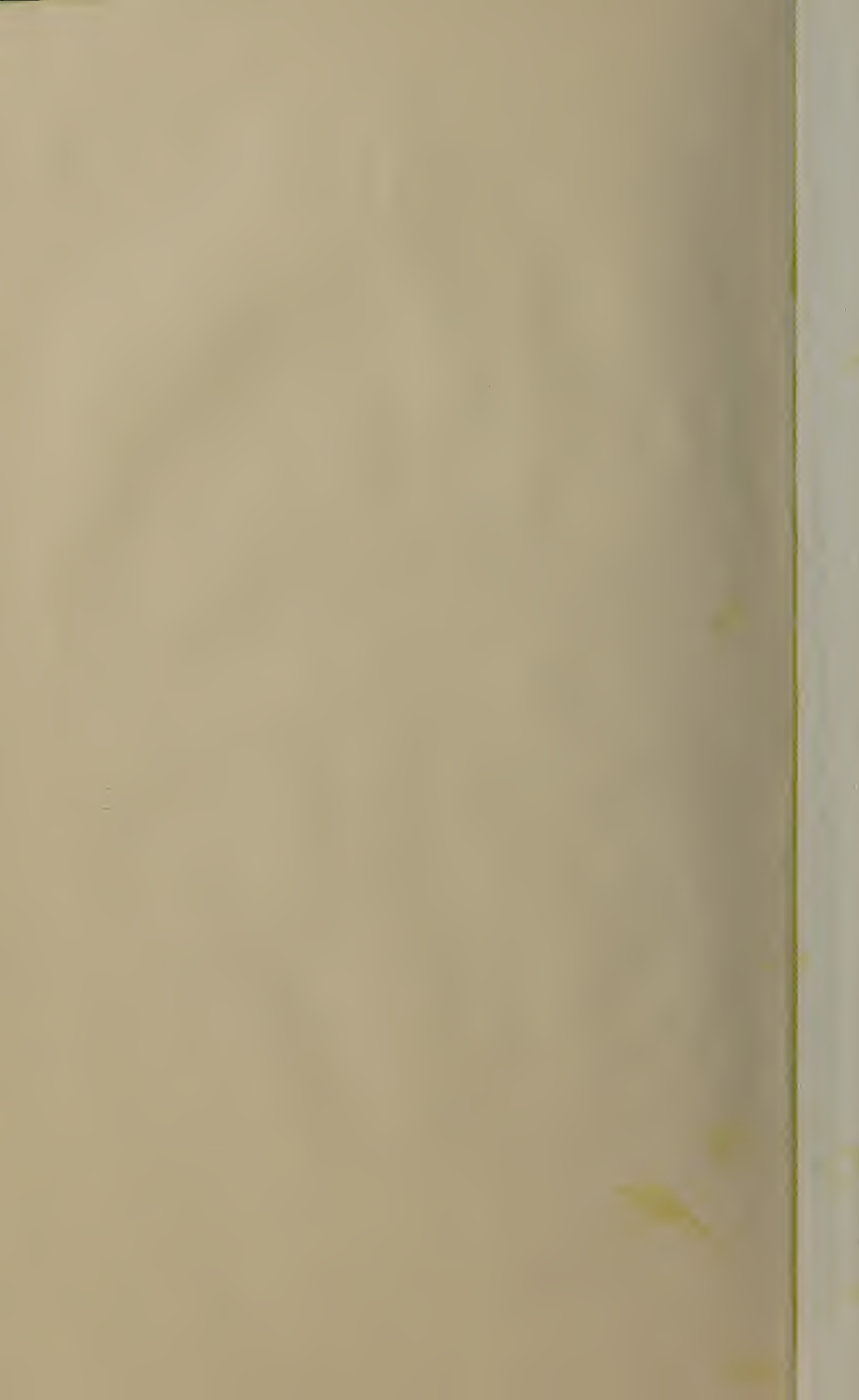


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The
Revolutionary
War Sketches
of
William R. Davie



by

BLACKWELL P. ROBINSON

NORTH CAROLINA BICENTENNIAL
PAMPHLET SERIES:
NORTH CAROLINA IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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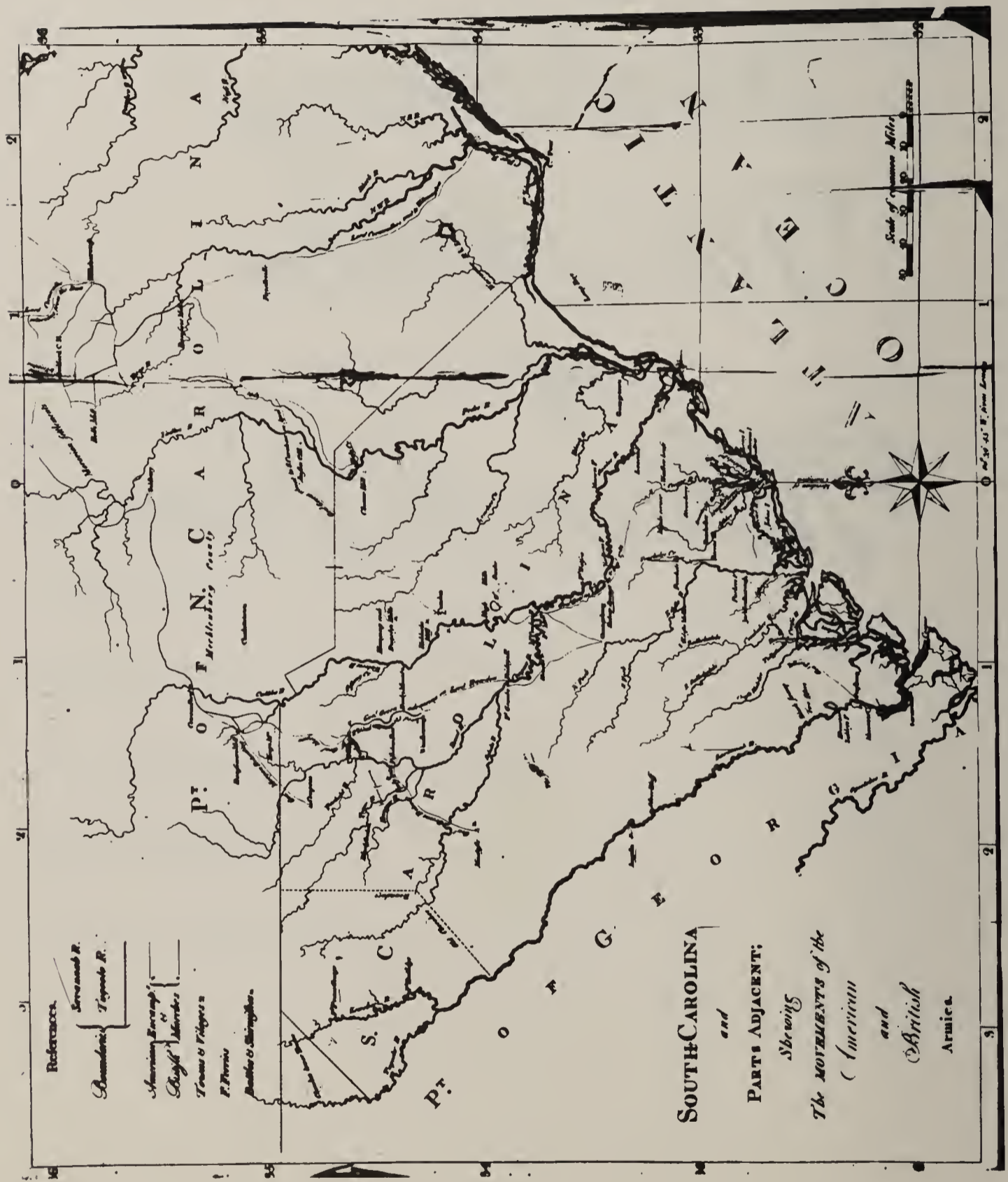
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The
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War Sketches
of
William R. Davie



David Ramsay's Map of the Southern Campaign

*The
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Raleigh 1976

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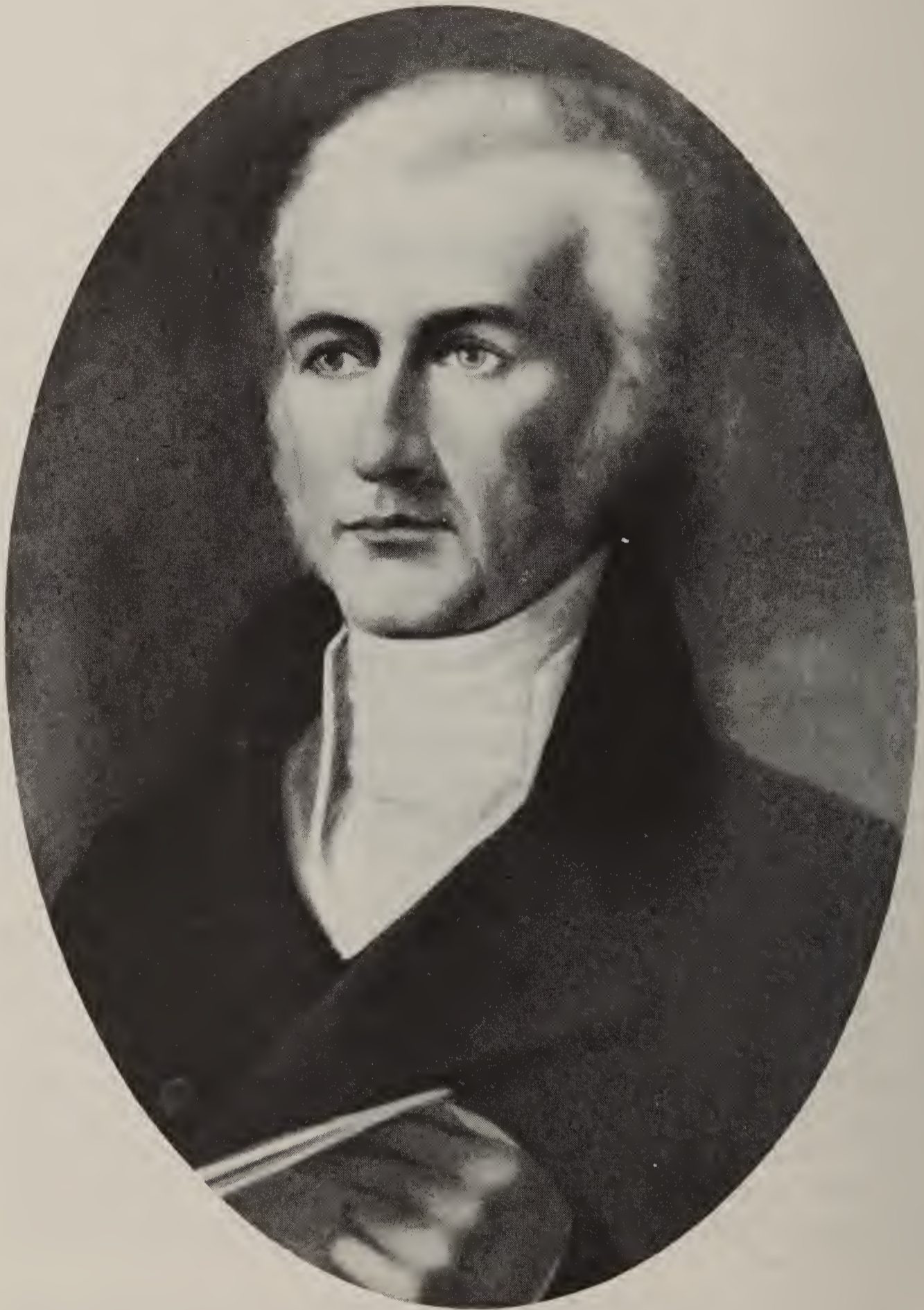
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William R. Davie

Photo: Division of Archives and History

INTRODUCTION

William Richardson Davie, statesman, military leader, diplomat, and university founder, came as a lad of eight from England with his parents to the Waxhaw section of piedmont South Carolina in 1764—just after the French and Indian War. His parents, both Scottish, had established their residence below the Solway Firth in the parish of Egremont, county Cumberland, England, some time before the arrival of their first born, the author of these sketches.

Young Davie finished at the College of New Jersey (later Princeton) in October, 1776, just as the American Revolution broke out, and he at once plunged into the partisan warfare of the Carolina Piedmont. So successful was he as a partisan leader that contemporaries ranked him with Francis Marion (the Swamp Fox), Thomas Sumter (the Gamecock), and Andrew Pickens. Wounded at the Battle of Stono near Charleston in June, 1779, he retired to Salisbury, North Carolina, where he “read” law under Judge Spruce Macay, as did Andrew Jackson several years later. After the fall of Charleston and the arrival of Cornwallis in the piedmont Carolinas, Davie organized a company of cavalry and set out to harass the British forces.

When Nathanael Greene assumed command of the Southern Army in December, 1780, at Charlotte he persuaded Davie, who was at first reluctant, to give up his field leadership and serve as Greene’s Commissary General, charged with the onerous and almost impossible task of subsisting Greene’s army during the closing year of the war.

After the war, Davie practiced law in Halifax, North Carolina, where he married Sarah Jones, the daughter of the conservative aristocrat, Allen Jones, and niece of the radical, democratic aristocrat, Willie Jones. Here he became part of the social and political life of eastern North Carolina with its love of sports and its interest in politics. His interest in sports—especially horse racing—led to his acquiring the famous race horse, Sir Archy, and his

interest in government and politics led to his steady rise in the Federalist party.

At thirty he was a framer of the Constitution of the United States (though attendance at court precluded his staying to sign it) and spent the next two years fighting its Antifederalist opponents led by Willie Jones. At the Fayetteville Convention in 1789 where his forces succeeded in gaining its ratification, he introduced the bill to charter the University of North Carolina. Chiefly responsible for its establishment, building, endowment, the selection of its faculty, and the planning of its curriculum, he is recognized today as "the Father of the University."

There followed years of constructive leadership in the General Assembly which led to his election on the Federalist ticket as governor of North Carolina in 1798. The next year President John Adams appointed him, along with William Vans Murray, United States Minister at The Hague, and Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth, as ministers plenipotentiary to France to bring an end to the undeclared naval war with France following the X. Y. Z. Affair. After months of tedious negotiations—some directly with Napoleon Bonaparte—they negotiated the French Convention of 1800, thus ending the war.

Upon his return to North Carolina he found that the political scene had changed in both state and national politics with the election of Thomas Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. A Federalist in a thoroughly Democratic state, his political fortunes began to decline, and he lost out in the campaign of 1803 for United States congressman. Disillusioned, he retired to his South Carolina plantation, "Tivoli," near Lancaster where he occupied himself with farming, horses, books, a voluminous correspondence, advice to the trustees of the University at Chapel Hill, and writing the sketches of his participation and observations regarding the American Revolution. He died in 1820—a Federalist to the end.

The panorama against which the events of these sketches were played encompassed the South Atlantic seaboard. The Revolution had become a stalemate in the North between the forces of George Washington and Sir Henry Clinton. Encouraged by reports of strong toryism in the South, the British commander decided to transfer the seat of war to this region in December, 1778, beginning with Georgia in a sweep northward. The southern states had remained free from invasion until that time, with the notable exceptions of Sir Peter Parker's repulse at Charleston, June 28, 1776, a few light predatory incursions from British Florida, and

various uprisings of tories in their midst. At this time, Clinton dispatched Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell with 3,500 men to the Georgia coast where they landed three miles below Savannah. They completely routed Major General Robert Howe's army of 1,500 American regulars and militia and entered Georgia's capital in triumph. The following month General Augustine Prevost marched up from Florida with 2,000 British regulars and took command of the united forces at Savannah. Campbell was forthwith dispatched into the interior of Georgia and within less than a month the conquest of Georgia was completed.

Meanwhile Major General Benjamin Lincoln, who had succeeded Howe in command of the Southern Department, had collected about 7,000 men at Charleston, of whom about one-third were North Carolinians—the militia under General John Ashe and the Continentals under Brigadier General Jethro Sumner. Thus strengthened, General Lincoln decided to take the offensive by detaching General Ashe with nearly 1,400 militia, and only 100 Continentals, with orders to take position opposite Augusta, Georgia. However, on March 3, 1779, at Briar Creek, about sixty miles below Augusta, the American forces were surprised by Colonel Mark Prevost, brother of the general. His detachment of 900 men routed the Americans so completely that less than a third of their number succeeded in rejoining General Lincoln. All hope of recovering Georgia at that time was abandoned.

Such was the picture when Davie began his sketches.* With the exception of the battles of Camden and Guilford Court House, the engagements described by Davie were on a comparatively small scale; yet they were of considerable importance in that they seriously embarrassed, impeded, and drained General Charles Cornwallis and Colonel Banastre Tarleton in their progress through the Carolinas and, by their delaying action, helped make possible the consolidation of the American and French forces at Yorktown.

* For the provenance of these "Sketches," see Blackwell P. Robinson, *William R. Davie* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1957), Appendix B, 403-405.

Part One

1779

Prevost's expedition against Charleston and the battle of Stono.

The American Army under General Lincoln were still^(a) encamped at Black-swamp,¹ Purisburg,² and the Heights opposite to Augusta, the General had quietly remained in these positions since the defeat of the detachment at Bryar-creek³ on the 3^d of March, either damped by this unfortunate check, and rendered cautious of detaching, or embarrassed in collecting what he deemed an adequate force to enable him to take a position on the Georgia side of the river, the Enemy Content with their achievements at Bryar-Creek continued their Head-Quarters at Savannah, the whole State of Georgia lay open to their depredations, the positions taken by General Lincoln being on the S^o Carolina side of the Savannah river had no influence on the movements of the Enemy and they foraged & plundered the whole State without either check or apprehension. On the 19th of April the American Army amounted to 5000 men, including 500 from the post at Orangeburg and one thousand militia arrived at Williamsons camp⁴ from N^o Carolina under General Butler⁵—the General was now in sufficient force to act with confidence & a council of war was called to determine upon active operations; the result was that the army should cross the Savannah, and occupy a position which w^d cut off the Enemy's communication with the Indian Tribes, and intercept their supplies from the upper country, and if possible narrow their operations to the Town of Savannah and the sea-board. In order to carry this plan into execution the General moved with the army on the 23^d leaving about 1000 Militia and the 5th and part of the 2^d South Car^a regiments under the command of General Moultrie⁶ at Black-swamp and Purisburg. The Army continued its march up the left bank of the river to the vicinity of Augusta,

(^a) 19th of April

where it was joined by the Brigades under Williamson and Butler. Information was received before the rear of the army arrived that General Prevost⁷ with 2400 British troops & some Indians had attempted to surprise the posts of Purisburg & Black swamp, and that General Moultrie on the advance of the Enemy had fallen back to Tulifinny⁸ bridge [blank in MS] miles on the road to Charleston. It was not then ascertained whether General Prevost had any other views than the attack upon Moultrie's positions, as a mere feint to divert Gen^l Lincoln from operations in Georgia; but as he continued to pursue Moultrie and might have views upon Charleston, 300 regular troops were immediately detached to reinforce the retreating army, with orders to Gen^l Moultrie to act discretionally upon circumstances using every opportunity to harrass and impede the Enemy. General Lincoln having crossed the Army and baggage at Augusta on the 2^d of May marched with all possible industry down the right bank of the river for three days; being now informed by General Moultrie that the Enemy continued to press forward towards Charleston; that his command was diminishing by the desertion of the Militia, and that he was retiring as fast as possible before the Enemy: upon this information the prospect of menacing the capital of Georgia was abandoned, and the General recrossed the river, and pursued General Prevost by forced marches by the nearest route thro' a desert barren country in which no arrangement had been made for supply—the army marched incessantly, and supported the oppression of thirst, hunger and fatigue with becoming spirit and cheerfulness, but their exertions were insufficient to retrieve the misfortune incurred by one mistaken maniover [*sic*] —

Moultrie's efforts were confined to a simple retreat and the destruction of the bridges in his rear.—Prevost passed rapidly forward without any interruption and had nearly gained the neighbourhood of Charleston before the General discovered his mistake and changed his plan (vide Gordon & Ramsey⁹ for the Attempt upon the Town &c, &c)

As soon as the British General returned to his baggage at Ashley Ferry,¹⁰ Gen^l Pulaskie¹¹ [*sic*] took post at Dorchester¹² [blank in MS] miles above the ferry on the opposite side of the river, with a small part of Orie's¹³ recruits, some mounted volunteers from the neighbourhood of Charleston, and a detachment of N^o Carolina Cavalry under Lie^t Davie,¹⁴ in all not exceeding 100 men with these Troops this celebrated partisan maintained this position continually annoying the enemy until the arrival of the

main army at Bacon bridge¹⁵ (May)¹⁶ about the same time the Legion Cavalry¹⁷ came up and the army now assumed a respectable appearance. The British General changed his position; and General Lincoln took possession of the ground they occupied near Ashly Ferry, several skirmishes took place the next day between the light troops and some prisoners were taken from the Enemy. The British army filed off to the islands and moved with great caution along the coast, while Gen^l Lincoln marched on their right flank, Prevost halted on ["John's"]¹⁸ Island opposite Stono Ferry¹⁹ and some field works were thrown up at the ferry to secure the communication with the mainland, the American Army encamped at Fergusons plantations [blank in MS] miles from the entrenched camp of the Enemy.

These positions were taken the [blank in MS]²⁰ of May, and the two armies remained stationary here, peaceably watching each other until the middle of June, when a project was formed for carrying the entrenched camp at Stono, which was to be supported by an attack upon the open camp of the Enemy on ["Johns"] Island, sufficiently serious to keep the Army here in check—On the 20th of June the time appointed for the attack, the American American [*sic*] Army presented itself before the works at Stono at daybreak. The defences of this place consisted of three redoubts with lines of communication representing the figure of a half moon and protected by a common abbatis; some pieces of field artillery filled the intervals, and the redoubts were mounted with canonades and some howitz [*sic*], the charge of this important post was committed to Col^o Maitland²¹—with about 700 men, the ground in the front of the works was perfectly level and at a small distance covered by a thick grove of pine trees. Gen^l Lincoln displayed the Army about 400 yards from the lines of the Enemy, the S^o Carolina brigade opposed to their right, the N^o Carolina brigade under Sumner²² in the center and Butlers Brigade of Militia on the [blank in MS],²³ the Cavalry composed of the 2^d line, the Brigade of Virginia Militia under Mason²⁴ formed the reserves; the flanks were covered by the light troops under Col. Henderson²⁵ and Malmedy;²⁶ this disposition being made the Army advanced in good order, extending the whole length of the Enemy's front—The British reserved their fire till the Americans were within about 60 y^{ds} when a General discharge of Musquetry and Artillery completely checked the assailants. The fire was instantly returned, and continued incessantly for 30 minutes, when an effort was made to carry on the men to storm the works,

but that moment was passed, and after a pause of a few seconds the fire again commenced on both sides; the attack was continued in this manner for an hour and 20 minutes, when the appearance of a reinforcement and the carnage among the American Troops induced the General to order a retreat, this of course produced some confusion in the front line, and Col^o Maitland²⁷ made a sallie with his whole force. Gen^l Lincoln ordered the Cavalry to charge the Enemy who were now advancing rapidly in loose order with an irregular fire; upon this movement the British troops formed and received the cavalry with so firm a countenance and a fire so well directed that these light and ill disciplined troops were immediately dispersed; the reserve of Virginia Militia were now moved forward and commenced a Heavy fire on the advance of the British troops, under cover of which the army was again formed, and the retreat effected in good order. (See Ramsey for the killed and wounded)²⁸

Upon Considering this enterprise it appears to have failed from the want of concert in the expedition against the Camp on [blank in MS]²⁹ Island, and the ill-planned mode of attack upon the works at Stono, the former was to have been executed by a detachment from Charleston and failed entire by a want of that arrangement and activity allways necessary on such occasions. The works and Abbatis at Stono were not properly connected with the river, but one flank terminated in a morass the other in a deep hollow which communicated with the river and some marshy grounds, the morass was passable eno. for Infantry; and the light Troops under Henderson, by passing the morass which was covered with wood, actually penetrated the British camp during the action, so that had the principal attack been directed to those points, where no abbatis no lines interposed, while the Enemy were amassed in front, they must have yielded to the bayonet in a few minutes.

The manner of forming the Troops has been considered as a mistake in the Gen^l. The works were intended only for a temporary defence and could not have stop'd the progress of a column at any point, had the attack been made in that form, instead of a line uniformly displayed two men deep—No regard appears to have been paid by the General in his disposition to the strong or weak parts of the Enemy works, that the attack was no where properly proportioned to the resistance, and the troops displayed in line once halted and engaged in a fire could never be moved forward again. It is difficult to find a reason for the listless torpor of several weeks while the American army occupied an unfavorable

position, diminishing every day by desertion and disease; and while the Enemy had leisure to strengthen their post at Stono, plunder the Islands and make complete preparation for their retreat to Georgia. (See Ramsay for the consequences of this action)³⁰

This coup de main of Gen^l Prevost appears to have been suggested by the false movement made by the American General to Augusta by which he marched 120 miles up one side of the river to measure nearly the same distance down the other, leaving Moultrie in his rear liable to surprise and without support and the Enemy at full liberty to fall upon all the posts in the lower part of S^o Carolina and even attempt Charleston by assault, had this enterprise, which was well timed and badly conceived, been executed with that spirit and energy always necessary to insure military success, or had General Prevost possessed wisdom enough to have granted the time of Neutrality so shamefully proposed by the civil authority of that State the fate of South Carolina would not have been suspended until May 1780.

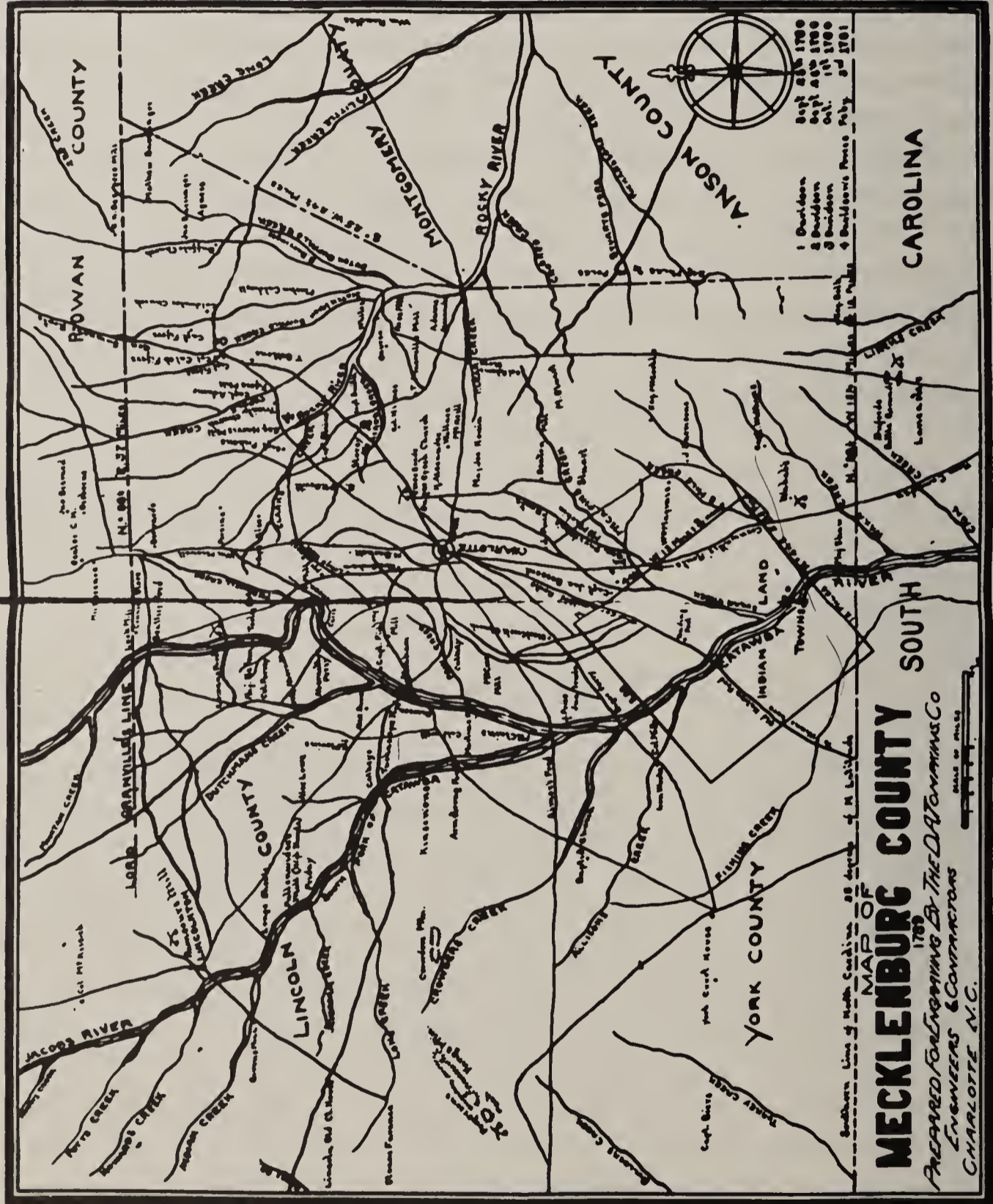
1780

The battle
of Ramsours

The Battle at Ramsours.

The surrender of Charleston³¹ and the defeat of Bufords detachment³² completed the conquest of South Carolina, the people generally submitted either personally or by a deputation of commissioners; but as this was well known to be the effect of panic, and that benumbing stupor consequent on such an impression the upper country was carefully reconnoitered, the minds and principles of the inhabitants examined, and the proper places fixed upon to establish posts that might keep the Country in awe, and future subjection; with these views the Enemy in the month of June had established strong advance posts at the Hanging rock and Rocky-Mount; ^(a) these positions were well-chosen, they were capable of supporting each other and not only entirely covered the northern part of that State, but encouraged the Loyalists in North

^(a) The Hanging-Rock is situate ["18 or 19 miles"] on the road from the Waxhaws to Camden ["East side of Wateree"] about ["24"] miles above Camden, Rocky Mount is on the West bank of the Wateree ["30"] miles from Camden.



Map of Mecklenburg County, 1789

Carolina to assemble in large bodies, and make considerable attempts to establish themselves, in different parts of the country. About this time a certain Col^o Moore³³ collected eleven hundred of the disaffected at Ramsours mill [“in N. C.”] on the west side of the Catawba river, [“not far from the present town of Lincolnton”] and Col^o Bryan³⁴ was at the same time secretly assembling a large body in the Forks of the Yadkin; numbers embodied in small parties near the South Carolina line, and being acquainted with the Country carried their depredations in every direction—The Militia were every where in arms, but every place wanted protection; at length about [“three hundred”] men [“composed of the militia of Burke, Lincoln, & Rowan Counties”] assembled under Colonel Francis Lock³⁵ and seven hundred under General Rutherford³⁶ including the South Carolina refugees, under Col^o Sumpter,³⁷ Neale³⁸ and others, and some Cavalry under Major Davie who had a commission to raise an Independent corps [“near Charlotte”]—It was agreed to attack Moores camp at Ramsours as the most dangerous body of the Enemy, on the 22^d following [“June”], for this purpose Col^o Lock marched to cross the river at Sherrills & Beatie’s fords³⁹ while General Rutherford also moved to cross below at [“Tuckaseegie”] Ford. These divisions were to have met in the night near the enemy and [“to have attacked”] them at break of day but the march of both parties was too circuitous, and the point of rendezvous too distant to insure punctuality; General Rutherford did not arrive, and Colonel Lock who had gained his position early in the night, called a council of the officers in which they resolved to attack the enemy notwithstanding the disparity of numbers, the Tories [“were”] encamped on a high ridge, clear of under wood, and covered with large oaks, their rear was protected by a Mill-pond and their right flank by a strong fence. At day break the regiment advanced by companies, the enemy drew up behind the trees and baggage and the action became in a moment general [“a general action immediately commenced”]; the enemy’s fire was well directed, but the militia pressed forward with great spirit and intrepidity and in about 30 minutes the Loyalists gave way on all sides, the loss of the militia was heavy in officers.^(a)

[blank in MS] Com^d Officers killed [blank in MS]
commissioned officers wounded

(a) Killed Cap^{ts} Fauls,⁴⁰ Bowman,⁴¹ Armstrong⁴² & Knox⁴³ Lieu^{ts} McKissock, Houston, Patton⁴⁴

[blank in MS] privates killed and wounded
a considerable number of the enemy were killed and wounded and
they lost all their baggage.

The General arrived about an hour after the action and des-
patched Major Davie with his cavalry in pursuit of the fugitives
with orders to clear that part of the country of all stragling parties;
many came and surrendered voluntarily a great number were
taken prisoners, some flying to South Carolina others at their
plantations, and in a few days that district of country lying be-
tween the river, the mountains and their ["S^o Car^a"] line was
entirely cleared of the Enemy.

1780

A convoy
of Provi-
sions x^c
captured
by Major
Davie
The 21st
of July

A convoy of provisions captured by Major Davie

The Insurgents on the West Side of the Catawba being entirely
dispersed, General Rutherford marched to oppose or rather follow
Colonel Bryan ["in a pursuit wh. proved unsuccessful, B. reaching
in Safety McArthur at the Cheraw Mills"⁴⁵] who had raised eight
hundred of the Tories and was marching down the Yadkin, and
Major Davie was ordered to take a position near the South Caro-
lina line opposite to the Hanging rock that might enable him to
prevent the enemy from foraging on the borders of the State
adjacent to the Waxhaws and check the depredations of the Loyal-
ists who infested that part of the Country; for this purpose he
chose a position on the North side of the Waxhaw creek, his corps
was reinforced by some South Carolinians under Major Crawford⁴⁶
the ["of the"]^(a) Catawba ["tribe of"] Indians under their chief
General Newriver, and a part of the Mecklenburg militia com-
manded by L^t Col^o Heaggins.⁴⁷ This ground being only eighteen

(^a) About 35 warriors

miles from the Hanging-rock where the enemy were in force, skirmishes happened every day for some time, but as the Enemy were generally well received they soon became more cautious and respectful; small detachments of cavalry were sent out to scour the country, and the Tories were all soon driven into the lines, and the enemy [“effectually”] prevented from foraging on that side. The British, who had considered the country entirely at their devotion, depended upon collecting their supplies from day to day. They had improvidently consumed all the grain between that post and Camden and were now obliged to draw their supplies from that place; to cut off these became an object of importance; with this view Major Davie left his camp on the evening of the 20th of July with a part of his dragoons and some volunteers to intercept a convoy of provisions spirits and clothing destined for the enemy at the Hanging-Rock, and by marching all night passed the enemys left flank & fell into the main Camden road [“five”] miles below that post; a good position was readily found at the Flat-rock [“4½ miles from Hanging Rock”] where they waited the approach of the convoy. They appeared in the afternoon & were captured with little trouble, the spirits provisions and waggons being destroyed, the escorts and waggoners were mounted on the captured horses, and about dark the party commenced its retreat. During the march the preceding night which was principally through the woods, one of the men fell back, and stragled off, and as it was supposed he would be made a prisoner in the morning, and the enemy gain information of the expedition, the guides were directed to take the most unfrequented route to prevent the detachment from being attacked in the night, the whole country being covered with thick woods and dangerous defiles; the advance was formed of the guides and a few mounted infantry under the charge of Cap^t Petit,⁴⁸ the prisoners were guarded by some dragoons commanded by Col^o Polk,⁴⁹ who acted as a volunteer and followed the advance guard, and as it was apprehended the enemy might pursue them on their trail, the night being light and clear enough for that purpose the remainder formed the rear-guard, marching in this order about 2’ O clock in the morning they again turned the Enemys left flank, and reached a plantation situate on the principal branch of Beaver Creek,⁵⁰ Cap^t Petit with the advance guard were ordered forward to examine the Houses and a narrow lane through which the road led, and also the ford of the Creek and with express directions to secure the family; as soon as this officer reported that he had executed his orders and all was well,

the troops again moved on, the rear guard had partly entered the lane when the officer of the advance hailed the enemy concealed under the fence and some standing corn; on challenging a second time he was answered by a discharge of Musquetry, which commenced on their right and passed like a running [*sic*] fire towards the rear of the Detachment; the Major who had rode ["ridden"] forward to the advance on the halt of the troops, repeatedly ordered the men to push thro' the lane, but by a mistaken instinct they turned back from the fire upon the loaded arms of the enemy; seeing this, and deeming it [h]is duty to bring them off, he re-passed the lane under the 2^d fire of the ambuscade, and overtook his party retreating precipitately on the same road by which they had advanced; the detachment were caused to file off to the right and halted upon a hill which overlooked the plantation; Col^o Polk with some of the guard had passed through the lane & the detachment was considerably reduced; but as the enemy were plainly observed passing about unguardedly with lights, every effort was used to tranquillize the men, and induce them to return the compliment on the enemy, but their spirits and confidence were dissipated and the ambuscade had produced all the effect of a complete surprise; all that could be done was to avoid another check by a judicious retreat, several of the prisoners were found to be mortally wounded, and were left on the Hill, the guides as usual had fled, and the Major was obliged at first to take a general direction through the woods, but a Tory who was taken from his bed and compelled to serve as a guide enabled him to pass the enemys patroles and regain his camp the next day without any further reverse of fortune. The loss was slight considering the advantage of the British, Cap^t Petit and two men wounded and Lie^t ["Elliot"]⁵¹ killed; the fire fell principally among the prisoners, who were confined two upon a horse and mixed with the guard presented a larger object than a single dragoon; the advance guard with the prisoners nearly filled the lane, it was owing to these circumstances that the prisoners were all killed or wounded except three or four. The object of surprising the convoy was effected the slaughter of the prisoners could not be considered a loss; but the ambuscade might have been fatal to the whole Detachment; a misfortune solely occasioned by the officer of the advance guard not having executed his orders; this may furnish a useful lesson to the officers of partizan corps ["an indiscretion D. would hardly have committed, but wh. he could not prevent in a subordinate."] who should never forget that every officer of a

detachment on command may at some moment have its safety and reputation committed to him, and that the slightest neglect of duty is generally severely punished by an enemy.

1780

The attack
on Rocky
Mount

The Post at Rocky-mount attacked.

Colonels Sumpter and Neal with a number of the South Carolina Refugees, and Col^o Irwin [“e”]⁵² with 300 of the Mecklenburg Militia rendezvoused near Major Davie’s camp about the last of July, and a Council was immediately held by the officers to fix upon a proper object to strike at while this volunteer force was collected, Rocky-Mount and the Hanging-Rock⁵³ presented themselves as not only the most important at the time but lying within their reach and strength; and it was finally agreed that Col^o Sumpter should march with the Refugees & the N^o Carolinians under Col^o Irwin [“e”] to the Attack of Rocky-Mount, while Major Davie made a diversion to engage the attention of the corps at the Hanging-Rock, and their Detachments marched the same evening. The defences of Rocky-Mount consisted of two log Houses calculated for defense, and a loop-holed building the whole secured by a strong Abbatis, the situation was considerably elevated, and surrounded with cleared grounds, Col^o Sumpter arrived before this place early the next day, some small parties of rifle men were advanced under the cover of rocks and trees, and kept up a fire upon the Houses; several corps of this Detachment marched repeatedly thro’ the old field to the attack with great intrepidity, but were repulsed by the Heavy fire of the garrison, various stratagems were essayed [“employed”] in vain to set the buildings on fire, and having no artillery they were obliged to give over the attempt of taking the place, Col^o Neale [“Andrew”] lost his life in one of the attacks near the Abbatis, this was an influential interprising officer and fell much lamented the loss [“was otherwise inconsiderable four or five privates killed or wounded”]. The retreat was effected without interception.

Major Davie’s detachment consisted of 40 [“forty”] mounted rifle-men and about that number of Dragoons, and considering

himself obliged to alarm the enemy in their camp at all events the same day, he approached the Hanging Rock about 1 O'clock, and fortunately while he was reconnoitering their position to fix upon the point of attack, He received information that three companies of their mounted Infantry returning from some excursion, had halted at a farmers house, situated in full view of the camp. The House was placed in the point of a right angle made by a lane of staked & ridered fence; the one end of which opened to the enemy's encampment, the other terminated in the woods, the Major advanced on that next to the woods, and as the riflemen were not distinguishable from the Loyalists, they were sent round to the other end of the lane with orders on gaining it, to rush forward & fire on the enemy. The dragoons were divided so that one half could occupy the lane while the other half entered the field. This disposition was made with such promptitude that the attention or suspicion of the enemy was never excited, the rifle company under Cap^t Flenniken ["Flenchau"]⁵⁴ passed the camp sentries without being challenged, dismounted in the lane and gave the enemy a well directed fire, The astonished Loyalists fled instantly the other way, and were immediately charged by the dragoons in full gallop and driven back in great confusion; on meeting again the fire of the infantry they all rushed impetuously against the angle of the fence where in a moment they were surrounded by the dragoons who had entered the field and literally cut to pieces: as this was done under the eye of the whole British camp no prisoners could be safely taken which may apologize for the slaughter that took place on this occasion ["and attached to this party the appellation of the bloody corps"]. They took sixty valuable Horses with their furniture and one hundred muskets and rifles; the whole camp beat to arms but the business was done, and the Detachment out of their reach before they recovered from their consternation.

1780

Battle
of the
Hanging-
Rock

The Battle of the Hanging-Rock.

On the 5th of August these Detachments met again at Lands Ford⁵⁵ on the Catawba, their strength was little diminished by the attack on Rocky-Mount and Major Davie had lost no men; the North Carolina Militia under Col^o Irwin[“e”] and Major Davie numbered about five hundred effective men Officers and privates, and about three hundred South Carolinians remained with Colonels Sumpter, Hill,⁵⁶ Lacy⁵⁷ and others. It became of great importance to remove the enemy from these posts, and it was supposed if one of them was taken the other would be evacuated; and upon a meeting of the Officers it was resolved to attack the Hanging-Rock the next day; as this was an open Camp they expected to be on a more equal footing with the enemy, and the men whose approbation in those times was absolutely necessary, on being informed of the result of this council of war entered into the project with great spirit & cheerfulness.

The Troops marched in the evening and about midnight halted within two miles of the enemy's camp, and a council was now called to settle the mode of attack; accurate information had been obtained of the enemys situation, who were pretty strongly posted in three different encampments the British regulars, making about [blank in MS]⁵⁸ commanded by [“Major Carden”]⁵⁹ were encamped on the right, a part [“160”] of the British Legion⁶⁰ and Hamiltons⁶¹ regiment at some Houses in the centre, and Bryan's regiment [“of N. C.”] with the other Loyalists about nine hundred some distance on the left, and separated from the centre-camp by a skirt of wood; the position of the regular troops could not be approached without an entire exposure of the assailants, and a Creek with a deep ravine covered the whole front of the Tory camp: Col^o Sumpter proposed that the detachment should be divided into three divisions [“sections”], and march directly to the centre encampment, then dismount and each Division attack its camp, this plan was approved by all the officers except Major Davie, who insisted on the necessity of leaving the horses at that place, and marching to the attack on foot, urging the confusion

always consequent on dismounting under a fire and the certainty of losing the effect of a sudden and vigorous attack; this objection was however over ruled, The divisions were soon settled, and as the day broke the march again commenced, the general command was conferred on Col^o Sumpter as the Senior Officer—Major Davie led the column on the right, consisting of his own corps and some volunteers Major Winn's⁶² regiment and some detached companies of S^o Carolina refugees; Col^o Hill commanded the left composed of the S^o Car^a refugees, and Col^o Irwin [“e”] the column in the centre formed entirely of the Mecklenburg militia; the army turned to the left of the road to avoid the enemy's picquet and patrol, with intention to return to it under the cover of a defile near the camp but the guides through ignorance or timidity led them so far to the left, that the right and center divisions fell together with the left upon the Tory encampment:—these devoted people were briskly attacked both in front & flank and soon routed with great slaughter; as the Americans pressed on in pursuit of the Tories who fled towards the center encampment they received a fire from 160 of the Legion Infantry and some companies of Hamilton's regiment posted behind a fence, but their impetuosity was not checked a moment by this unexpected discharge, they rushed [“rushed” deleted and “continued to rush” substituted by Hubbard] forward, and the Legion Infantry immediately broke and mingled in the flight of the Loyalists, yielding their camp without another struggle to the Militia; at this moment a part of Col^o Browns⁶³ regiment had nearly changed the fate of the day, they passed by a bold and skilful manuevre into the wood between the centre & Tory encampment, drew up unperceived, and poured a Heavy fire on the Militia forming, from the disorder of the pursuit, on the flank of the encampment; these brave men took instinctively to the trees and bush heaps and returned the fire with deadly effect, in a few minutes there was not a British officer standing, one half of the regiment had fallen, and the others on being offered quarters threw down their arms; the remainder of the British line who had also made a movement to their right now retreated hastily towards their former position and drew up in the center of the cleared grounds in the form of a Hollow Square. The rout of these different corps the pursuit & the plunder of the camps had thrown the Americans into great confusion, the outmost exertions were made by Col^o Sumpter & the other officers to carry the men on to attack the British square, about 200 Infantry with Davie's dragoons were collected and formed on the margin of the woods, and a

heavy but ineffectual fire was commenced on the British troops, about 3 or 400 of the Enemy consisting of the Legion infantry Hamilton's reg^t with a large body of the Tories, were observed rallying & forming in the edge of the woods on the opposite side of the British camp, and least they might be induced to take the Americans in flank Major Davie passed round the camp under cover of the trees, and charged them with his company of Dragoons, these people under the impressions of defeat were all routed and dispersed in a few minutes by this hand full of men. The distance of the square from the woods and the constant fire of two pieces of field artillery prevented the militia from making any considerable impression on the British troops; so that upon Major Davie's return it was agreed to plunder the encampments and retire; as this party were returning toward the center encampment some of the Legion Cavalry appeared drawn up on the Camden road, with a countenance as if they meant to keep their position but on being charged by the dragoons of Davie's corps they all took the woods in flight & one only was cut down. A retreat was by this time absolutely necessary—The commissary stores were taken in the center encampment, and numbers of the men were already inebriated, the greatest part were loaded with plunder and those in a condition to fight had exhausted their ammunition, about an Hour was employed in plundering the camp, taking the paroles of the British officers, and preparing litters for the wounded; all this was transacted in full view of the British army who in the mean time consoled themselves with some military music & an interlude of 3 cheers for King George, which was immediately answered by 3 cheers and [“the name of” deleted] the Hero of American Liberty; the militia at length got into the line of march in three columns, Davie's corps covering the rear, but as they were loaded with plunder, encumbered with their wounded friends, and many of them intoxicated, it is easy to conceive that this retreat could not be performed according to the rules of the most approved tacticks, However under all these disadvantages they filed off unmolested along the front of the Enemy about 1 O'clock.

The Americans had [blank in MS]⁶⁴ commissioned officers killed, and [blank in MS] privates—[blank in MS] officers wounded [blank in MS] and [blank in MS] privates Major Davie's corps suffered severely The British lost three officers of the line and [“several of the Loyalists, & a larger number than ours of”] privates killed & wounded.⁶⁵

It is an invariable trait in the character of Militia that they will only obey their own officers in the line of action, and this battle would certainly have been more decisive had not the militia fallen into confusion in the pursuit of the Loyalists & Legion Infantry; by which means the different regiments & companies became mixed & confounded. or Had the Divisions of this Army disencumbered themselves of their horses and moved in such manner as to have engaged the encampments separately at the same time; a vigorous and unexpected attack might have prevented the British from availing themselves of their superior discipline, the other encampments must have been soon carried &, the corps would have remained distinct, and in a situation to push any advantage that Davie's column might have gained over the British line.

[“returned⁶⁶ to Charlotte where a hospital had been, by his provident care established, with the wounded, & hastened thence to the general rendezvous of Gates' army at Rugely's Mill
Lee's Memoirs—I 188.”]

The American loss was never actually ascertained in this action owing to the want of proper returns and many of the wounded being carried immediately home from the action.

Killed	Wounded	
Cap ^t Reed N ^o Car.	Major Wynn S ^o Car ^a	Col ^o Hill S ^o Car ^{a67}
Cap ^t McClure S ^o Car ^a	Lie ^t Fleneken N ^o Car ^a	
	Ens. M ^c Lure N ^o Car ^a	
	Cap ^t Craighead N ^o Car ^a	

1780

Gates defeat—Observations.

Unfortunate Generals are always the subject of observation and undistinguishing censure, success alone bestows either merit or fame upon a Military character; it is however the duty of the Historian who writes for the benefit of posterity, and not for the purpose of flattering the actors in the scenes he paints to expose with equal freedom and truth the blunders of the politician and the mistakes of the General.

The advanced situation of Caswells⁶⁸ division, the ill-effect of a retrograde movement, and the situation of the country about

Lynch's Creek⁶⁹ appear to have impelled Gen^l Gates to move forward to Rugeleys mills—

This position taken by accident rather than choice was not so bad as has been generally represented, its neighbourhood contains the strongest ground in that part of the Country. From this place must be dated the error of the General and the misfortunes of the Army; When he determined to approach Camden as near as Saunders Creek,⁷⁰ the Enemy being there within surprising distance. He ought to have pushed forward his light troops with 2 or 3 pieces of artillery and taken possession of that pass early in the day, at this place There is a wide boggy morass passable only by the causeway, and the ground rises considerably on the Northern side—Had the light troops been in possession of this post, their patrols must have given early notice of the Enemys advancing in force The cause way might have been disputed & the light troops supported or withdrawn at pleasure and arrangements for attack, keeping the Enemy in check, or avoiding a general action could have been easily made

As the recovery of the two Southern States and the security of the remainder depended upon the army then collected it was the grossest folly to stake the whole blindly upon one single throw of the die; the whole army were necessarily brought into action, the Enemys force was unknown, he might succeed but there was no certain data to calculate this success upon, the want of success was inevitably followed by a total defeat—nothing but the most desparate circumstances could warrant a General to stake so much upon a single Hazard.

Three fourths of this army were militia, these alone might have been a match for the royal army if properly fought under such advantages as a country covered with woods morasses and broken grounds almost every where affords. There never was a necessity to attack the British army at any particular point or place and the militia always behaved well when served up by detachment, and under the impulse of attack.

The center and left of the front line were composed of militia, these could not be expected to wait the shock of a charge made by regular troops, otherwise discipline would be useless and military tacticks a farce. The consequence was this flank was immediately turned, the whole reserve could they have been brought up in time would not have filled this fatal interval between Gists⁷¹ Brigade and the swamp, DeKalbs Division on the right was of

course instantly overwhelmed, and the reserves soon involved in their fate.

Observations on Gates's defeat continued from pa 25.⁷²

The Ground on which the armies met was not the choice of the general but the accident of the night, but being narrowed by swamps both on the right and left was particularly favorable to the inferior numbers of the royal army & leaving no advantage to the superior numbers of their opponents; and still too extensive and too open to fight the Militia to advantage.

General Gates had joined the army but a few days which time was employed in continual marches, he was entirely unacquainted with the character of the officers or the merits of the different corps which composed his army, and was ignorant of their numbers, having never received a return until after the orders of the 15th were issued, the regular troops wanted rest and refreshment, the whole of the militia wanted arrangement and the ordinary preparation for a battle was intirely neglected among them, in Rutherfords Brigade there was scarce a cartridge made up, and their arms were generally in bad order; the consequence of continual marching & exposure. A man must have had more than ordinary good fortune to avoid a defeat under so many unfortunate circumstances.

Sumpters
surprise
and
defeat

Sumpter's surprise and defeat.

Major Davie about an hour after Gen^l Gates passed him despatched a confidential officer⁷³ to give him⁷⁴ information of the misfortunes of the morning, the officers reached his Camp the same evening and Col^o Sumpter with his Detachment consisting of 100 regr^r infantry a comp^y of Artillery 2 brass pieces & 700 militia began to retreat along the West bank of the river⁷⁵ to gain the Upper Country and avoid the fate of the main Army; on the night of the 17th May encamped at Rocky Mount, at this place Col^o Sumpter received advice that the British Legion had reached the

opposite bank of the Wateree river then called the Catawba and already occupied the banks and fords. He marched again at day break—and—about 12 'Oclock the detachment halted, having passed Fishing Creek⁷⁶ and gained an open ridge on the N^o side of the creek, the Detachment halted in the line of march, the rear guard consisting of ["20 or 30"] militia were posted at the Creek, the prisoners and part of the baggage were with the advance guard, the troops were permitted to stack their arms and indulge themselves as they pleased in rest or refreshment, several strolled off to a neighbouring plantation, some went to the river to bathe, and numbers sought in sleep some respite from their fatigue, in this unguarded and critical moment, Col^o Tarleton approached the American Camp.

The disposition for attack was simple and made in a moment, the Cavalry consisting of 100, and the light Infantry about 60 were formed in a single line and giving a general shout advanced to the charge The arms and artillery of the continentals were immediately in possession of the enemy, as the men started from their slumbers they were cut down, a general panic ensued no regular opposition was made; and all that could escape, sought their safety in immediate flight, the main guard joined the fugitives and the prisoners were instantly released.

This Victory cost the British very little, Cap^t Cambel⁷⁷ killed, and 15 privates killed and wounded. The Americans lost 150 officers and privates killed and wounded, 10 Continental off^s 100 sold^{rs}, a large no. of mil^a officers & 200 privates were made prisoners, The artillery, 1000 stand of arms, 46 waggons loaded with valuable stores fell also in to the British possession.

In this action Col^o Tarlton had the merit of audacity and good fortune but the glory of the enterprise was stained by the unfeeling barbarity of the legion who continued to hack and maim the militia long after they had surrendered, scarce a man was wounded until he considered himself a prisoner and had deprived himself of the means of defence. Numbers of these were old grey headed-men, who had turned out to encourage & animate the younger citizens, but there hoary honors were not respected by the British sabre.

Col^o Tarlton with only 160 men, presented himself before the American camp, without either information, or a moments reflection proceeded to charge them, had the Commanding officer taken any of the ordinary precautions to resist an attack, Tarlton must have suffered severly for this boyish Temerity; the conflict was

nothing, the fighting was entirely on one side, and the slaughter among the defenceless.

Col^o Sumpter rec^d information that the British Legion crossed near Rocky-Mount that morning, and that they were hanging on his rear, and yet marched only 8 miles before he halted & strangely neglected the necessary precautions to prevent a surprise and every means to resist an attack—The Detachment was halted in the line of march upon an open ridge, no advantage was taken of the waggons, the rear guard was posted so near that it was not distinguished by the enemy from the main body; the whole security of the army rested upon two videttes whose fire was disregarded or not heard by a slumbering camp; if a halt was absolutely necessary after a march of only 8 miles a position should have been taken most unfavorable to the action of Cavalry, the army should have been posted or formed in the order of battle, and the waggons so disposed as to have covered the troops from the charge of the British Cavalry, these precautions dictated by common practice and common prudence would have enabled him to have repelled five times the Enemys force.

If a proper patrole had been sent down the road towards the Enemy, and the rear guard had been sufficiently strong & posted at the usual distance, and the men had been ordered to remain in Camp near their arms, Col^o Sumpter might have been beaten, but he would not have been surprised; or have yielded eight hundred men and two pieces of artillery as easy prey to 160 light troops: The listless and slumbering security in which this Detachment were caught at Mid-day under the eye of an enterprising enemy admits of neither apology nor explanation—Col^o Sumpter who was asleep under a waggon when the action commenced, fortunately made his escape amidst the general confusion and reached Major Davie's camp at Charlotte two days afterwards without a single follower.⁷⁸

N.⁷⁹ You will observe in a letter from Gov^r Nash⁸⁰ to the North Carolina Delegates dated 23^d of Aug. 80.⁸¹ He says that "General Caswell made a stand at Charlotte and called in upwards of a *thousand fresh men* [italics in original] that he added these to Sumpters party of about seven hundred and gave him the command of the whole while he (Caswell) came on to the Assembly." This *you know is a damnable lie* [italics in original], Caswell did not stay to collect one man⁸²—and followed Gen^l Gates before Gist, Smallwood⁸³ and the other officers abandoned the Town, and Sumpter did not arrive till several days after Caswells departure,

and then alone, riding bare-back, without hat or saddle, or even a servant. Gen^l Gates in his letter of the 30th repeats this falsehood. It becomes the Historian to correct such shameful misrepresentations calculated to screen certain characters from just censure and attribute to themselves and others merit they never deserved.

The British
light Troops
surprised
at Wahabs

The British light troops surprised at Wahabs

About the 8th of September Earle Cornwallis moved with the whole of the British Army from Camden to the Waxhaws and took possession of the Camp occupied by Major Davie in the months of June and July, forty miles below Charlotte and directly on the N^o Car^a line, The country in the neighbourhood contained many rich farms, but it had been the scene of continual devastation & warfare for nine months, The crops were neglected and destroyed, and many of the plantations intirely deserted, Sumpters defeat was marked with the capture and slaughter of a large part of the inhabitants of this populous settlement; so that an army could not be supported there without foraging to a considerable distance; but his Lordship was not ready to enter North Carolina, and he had reason to expect that his detachments would meet with little interception in collecting supplies—South Carolina appeared now entirely subjugated, and his Northern neighbour had not recovered from the panic & stupor occasioned by the dispersion of General Gate's Army, the remains of which were collecting at Hillsboro, near two hundred miles distant; Col^o Davie who was now appointed Col^o Com^t of all the Cavalry of N^o Carolina⁸⁴ with orders also to raise a regiment had there collected only about seventy men however with these and two companies of riflemen commanded by Major Geo. Davidson⁸⁵ he took post at Providence⁸⁶ twenty five miles above the British camp.

The camp of Lord Cornwallis extended along the North side of the Waxhaw Creek, and the 71st regiment was posted in the rear about ½ a mile on the S^o side in a paralel line, the Catawba river in some measure covered their left flank and the Loyalists and light troops encamped on their right and already began to spread

havoc & destruction. Throughout the neighbouring country Col Davie had procured information of their situation & formed a design to attack them; for this purpose he marched,^(a) with his own corps and Major Davidson's rifle men, making together one hundred and fifty men, with intention to fall on their quarters in the night hoping by these means to check, if not entirely disperse these lawless Marauders; after taking a considerable circuit to avoid the patrols of the enemy about 2 O'clock in the morning he turned Lord Cornwallis right flank, and approached a plantation where the Tories were said to be encamped; but on examining the ground was found they had changed their position a few days before, two other places were reconnoitered in consequence of advice received in the night from terrified or disaffected people, at the last of these certain information was procured that they had retired within the flanks of the British Army to the plantation of a Cap^t Wahab,⁸⁷ which was overlooked by the camp of the 71st regiment, and that they might amount to three or four hundred mounted Infantry; this Partizan ["Davie"] unwilling to lose his object, reached Wahabs as the sun was rising; the moment was fortunate The (Br^{sh}) party were going ["secretly to march"] on command, their sentries were all called in, and about sixty of them with a part of the B. Legion were mounted near the House which stood about the middle of a Lane, covered on the same side by a corn field cultivated to the very door, a company of Infantry were detached thro' the corn with orders to take possession of the Houses, and immediately fire on the enemy. The Cavalry were sent round the corn field with directions to gain the other end of the lane, & charge the foe, as soon as the fire commenced at the Houses, while the Col^o advanced to receive them with about forty riflemen, the Houses were briskly attacked, and the Cavalry charged at the same moment, the enemy being completely surprised had no time to form and crowded in great disorder to the other end of the lane when a well reserved fire from the rifle men drove them back upon the cavalry and Infantry who were now drawn up at the Houses, & by whom they were instantly attacked; thus pushed vigorously on all sides they fluctuated some moments under the impressions of terror & dismay and then bore down the fences, and fled in full speed. The Colonels situation was too Hazardous to risque any time in pursuit; the horses and arms were ordered to be collected, and in a few minutes, the Infantry were all mounted, and the surplus horses secured: The 71st regi-

^(a) The 20th of September.

ment had beat to arms in the beginning of the action and upon finding this was the only object moved briskly to attack the detachment, but as they entered one end of the lane the Americans were marching out of the other in good order, The British left fifteen or 20 dead on the field and had about forty wounded;⁸⁸ they were surprised, pushed off their reflection, & made no resistance so that only one man of the Americans was wounded and that by mistake, being unwarily seperated in the pursuit, and having no regimentals he was not distinguishable from the enemy. The British commanding officer out of pique or a mistaken & cruel policy immediately ordered the improvements of the plantation to be set on fire, and the Houses barns & fences were all laid in ashes altho' there were three families of women & children living there at the time; the proprietor Cap^t Wahab was a volunteer with Colonel Davie, & had been exiled some time from his family, & his wife and children were unavoidably in the midst of the action, 'These were moments which try mens souls' They gathered round him in tears of joy and distraction, the enemy advanced, and he could only embrace them, and in a few minutes afterwards turning his eyes back towards his all, as the detachment moved off, he had the mortification to see their only hope of subsistence wrapt in flames. This barbarous practice was uniformly enacted by the British officers in the Southern States, However casual the rencounter might be, when it happened at a plantation, their remaining in possession of the ground was always marked by committing the Houses to the flames. The Colonel expecting to attack the enemy in the night, had given orders to take no prisoners. These orders in the hurry of the morning were not revoked, This circumstance, the vicinity of the British quarters, and the danger of pursuit satisfactorily account for no prisoners being taken; he brought off Ninety six horses with their furniture, & one hundred & twenty stand of arms, and arrived at his camp the same afternoon, having performed a march of sixty miles in less than twenty four Hours, notwithstanding the time employed in seeking & beating the enemy; Generals Sumner & Davidson⁸⁹ had arrived that day at his camp with their brigades of militia both of which However did not amount to one thousand men all on short enlistments, illy armed, and diminishing every day. These with Davie's corps were the whole assembled force at that time opposed to the enemy.

Action
at
Charlotte

Action at Charlotte.

As the Waxhaws had been taxed with the supplies and even depredations of both parties it was impossible for the British army to continue their position there, and his Lordships plan of operations was to carry the war into N^o Carolina on the 24th of september our patroles gave information, that the enemy were in motion on the Steele-creek road⁹⁰ leading to Charlotte, General Sumner & Davidson immediately retreated by the nearest route to Phifers road⁹¹ towards Salisbury leaving Charlotte considerably to the left; Col^o Davie with one hundred & 50 men consisting of mounted Infantry and dragoons with some volunteers under the command of a Major Graham⁹² was ordered to attend the enemy's motions and skirmish with their front; this party hovered round the British army and on the evening & night of the 25th captured a number of Prisoners, and about midnight took post at Charlotte, seven miles from the place where Cornwallis encamped; early in the morning of the 26th the Colonels patroles were driven in by the enemy's light troops, and in a few minutes the Legion & light infantry were seen advancing towards the town followed by the whole Army. The Town situated on rising ground contains about twenty Houses built on two streets which cross each other at right angles in the intersection of which stands the Court-House, The left of the Town as the enemy came up was an open common, the right was covered with underwood up to the gardens, the Col. was inforced in the night by Major Graham with fourteen volunteers, and relying on the firmness of the militia was determined to give his Lordship some earnest of what he might expect in N^o Carolina, for this purpose he dismounted one company and posted them under the Court-house where they were covered breast-high by a stone wall, the two other companies were advanced about eighty yards and posted behind some houses and gardens on each side of the street, while this disposition was making the legion was forming at the distance of ["three hundred yards"] with a front to fill the street, and the light Infantry on their flank; on sounding the charge the cavalry advanced in full gallop within sixty y^{ds} of the Court-house when the Americans received orders to fire, This fell with such effect among the cavalry that they re-

treated with great precipitation, as the light Infantry behaved with more resolution, and were pressing forward on our right flank notwithstanding a warm fire from the volunteers, who were too few to keep them in check, it became necessary to withdraw the two advanced companies and they were formed in a line with those at the Court House, The flanks were hotly engaged with the Infantry but the center were directed to reserve their fire for the cavalry, who rallied on their former ground, and returned to the charge, They were again well received by the militia and galloped off in the outmost confusion, in the presence of the whole British army, the Legion infantry were now beginning to turn the Colonels right flank, and the companies were drawn off in good order successively covering each other and formed in a single line at the end of the street about one hundred yards from the Court-house under a galing fire from the British light infantry who advanced under the cover of the Houses and gardens, The British cavalry soon appeared again, charging in columns by the Court-house, but on receiving a fire reserved for them by a part of the militia, they wheeled off behind the Houses, Lord Cornwallis vexed at the repeated repulses of his cavalry,⁹³ The Legion Infantry thus reinforced pressed forward rapidly on their flanks, The ground was no longer tenable by the handfull of brave men, and a retreat was ordered by the Salisbury road; the enemy followed with great caution & respect for some miles, when they at length ventured to charge the rear guard, The guard were of course put to flight, but on receiving a fire from a single company the Cavalry again retreated, The loss of the Americans consisted of Lt Locke⁹⁴ and 4 privates killed Major Graham and five privates wounded. The British stated their loss at 12 non-commissioned officers killed and wounded Major Hanger,⁹⁵ Cap^{ts} Campbell & McDonald⁹⁶ wounded with about thirty privates.

This action, altho' it carries a charge of temerity on the part of Col Davie and can only be excused by the event and that zeal which we are allways ready to applaud, furnishes a very striking instance of the bravery and importance of the American Militia; few examples can be shewn of any troops who in one action changed their position twice in good order although pressed by a much superior body of Infantry and charged three times by thrice their number of Cavalry, unsupported & in the presence of the enemys whole army and finally retreating in perfect order.^(a)

(^a) See Tarltons campaigns pa 162
McKenzie's strictures pa 47⁹⁷

The British chagrined to see their laurels snatched from their army by this detachment of Militia loudly charged the Legion with pusillanimity, while they excused themselves by saying that the confidence with which the Americans acted induced them to apprehend an ambuscade; surely no manœuvre of this kind could be seriously expected in an open village in open day.

L^d Corn-
wallis's
retreat
into
S^o Caro-
lina

Colonel Davie joined the army in Salisbury next day where the officers who had received commissions to recruit had assembled with the men they had raised, and Col^o Taylors⁹⁸ regiment from Granville also passed under his command so that his corps now consisted of near three hundred mounted Infantry with a few dragoons. Generals Sumner & Davidson continued their retreat beyond the Yadkin and Colonel Davie returned towards Charlotte, as his force was insufficient to make any impression on the enemy in their camp, all that could be done was to confine them if possible to the Town by attacking their foraging parties, and to distress them by cutting off their supplies; in consequence of which positions were chosen within fifteen & twenty miles, and parties detached on all sides to watch and harrass the enemy; he was confined by express orders to remain always with the principal body in the direction between Salisbury & Charlotte, and by no means to risque being generally engaged, These orders limited the operations of this partizan but much was done by his perfect knowledge of the Country and the daring bravery of the militia under his command: no party of the enemy ventured out without being attacked, and often retired with considerable loss; the people of the neighbouring Country were strongly attached to the American cause, and gave his Lordship no assistance, and all information was cut off by the vigilance and activity of the militia cavalry; however strange it may appear, His Lordship^(a) began to feel the greatest distress, under this species of blockade, for provisions forage and all the necessary supplies of an army and

(^a) Tarl. camp. 164 ["160"]⁹⁹

these circumstances combined with Fergusons¹⁰⁰ defeat determined him to relinquish the conquest of N^o Carolina for that campaign and accordingly on the night of the 14th of October he began his retreat to South Carolina. The night was cloudy, His Lordship was deserted by his guides, and soon fell into difficulties; so much had the Americans gained the ascendancy that from the fire of a small party of the militia on patrol they left twenty waggons containing a large part of the baggage of the 71st regiment & legion Infantry.¹⁰¹

Lord Cornwallis had intended to cross the Catawba river, at the old Nation ford,¹⁰² but a sudden swell of the river, obliged him to halt the army. After remaining here two days in a miserable situation without supplies, surrounded by Militia Cavalry who prevented all foraging, they marched precipitately down the [“east side of the”] river attended by the Detachment of Cavalry under Col^o Davie who continued skirmishing with their rear [“during the whole march”] on the 19th they completely evacuated the State [“State of N. C.”] and crossed the Catawba river at Lands-Ford.

Detached remarks upon Gordons history of military events subsequent to the 16th of August & Sumpters surprise.

Vol. 3 pa 105:¹⁰³

Mr Gordon mentions Major Anderson¹⁰⁴ as the only man whose efforts to rally the men were any way effectual

Major Anderson was the only Man who did not appear to be affected by the panic of the day. I passed him on the morning of the 17th about 40 miles from the field of battle with a corporal and eight men eating his breakfast with great composure on the roadside having had the good fortune to fall in which his own baggage waggon.

pa 108

pa 109

pa 108.¹⁰⁵ This page is an apology for the manner the officers dispersed from Charlotte.

The Truth is, about 9 'O clock on the 19th news arrived of Sumpters defeat, accompanied w^t reports of the approach of the British Cavalry; the officers determined precipitately upon retreating to Salisbury—I assured them that my patrols were several miles down the roads and that the British Horse could not

be within many miles. I entreated them to remain, as it wd give more confidence &c to the militia; and urged the bad consequences of retiring &c to no purpose—in a few minutes there were none left but Gist & Smallwood, who parted with me, requesting me to proceed down the road and endeavour to save Anderson—I immediately marched & met Anderson in a few miles, his party had increased to 15 or 20—he could not help expressing his surprise and indignation, and promised to remain at Charlotte until my return—I examined the Country below the Waxhaws and found the Enemy had all fallen back to Camden; on my return to Charlotte I found Major Anderson there, and at my instance he wrote to Gen^l Smallwood for orders to remain at that place.

PA. 120—¹⁰⁶

Mr. Gordon states that Lord Cornwallis confident of success &c advanced from Charlotte towards Salisbury &c

This is a mistake he never attempted to advance or made a movement, until he retreated towards S^o Carolina, Gen^{ls} Sumner and Davidson retreated immediately beyond the Yadkin on Cornwallis's arrival at Charlotte, and Gen^l Davidson joined me two days before he evacuated Charlotte with about forty men, with a view to collect if possible the militia on that side of the Yadkin.

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Pa 122

In this page¹⁰⁷ Mr Gordon represents Sumpter as gaining a victory over Major Weyms¹⁰⁸ on the 12th of November, having previously beaten up the British quarters &c and played the devil for 3 months. All this is a mistake The affair happened in this manner—The 12th of November was the 1st effort made by Sumpter and the officers in the neighbourhood of the new acquisition to assemble the militia in that part of the Country—so large a number of the leading characters had fallen at the time that Sumpter was surprised, and the people were so dreadfully terrified by their past misfortunes, that it was extremely difficult to collect the remaining Whigs, However at this time General Smallwood with a body of N. C. Militia and Gen^l Morgans¹⁰⁹ Detachment lay at Providence, and Col^o Davie with 300 mounted Infantry occupied an advanced post near Lands Ford on the Catawba river in S^o Carolina, the defeat of Ferguson the retreat of Lord Cornwallis and the advance of these troops began again to inspire the Country with

some degree of confidence, and on the 11th of November the remnant of the Whigs in the Upper part of S^o Carolina had notice of a rendezvous at Fish-dam ford¹¹⁰ on Broad-river from Sumpter who was now promoted to a Brigar Gen^l by Gov^r Rutledge. This place was only [blank in MS]¹¹¹ miles from Winsborough where L. Cornwallis lay, Gen^l Sumpter and a few others appeared on the 11th or the 12th They continued to collect and their numbers became respectable, there are a few acres of low flat land at the Ford, surrounded by very high grounds, in this location the General fixed his camp, surrounded by the river, These high grounds & creek which emptied itself above his camp and a plantation which lay immediately below, The orders for assembling were so public, that the Enemy had immediate notice of it & Major Weyms w^t ["the 63^d regiment & about 40 of the Legion Cavalry"] were detached to disperse the Militia, The Americans not apprehending any danger, were encamped without any particular order in this insulated piece of low grounds, with a picket placed in the road where it reached the summit of the ridge, Weyms approached the camp by the great road, and fell in with the picket about midnight, These were immediately charged and routed and pursued into the camp; the astonished Americans started from their sleep¹¹² instinctively seized their arms, and sought their individual safety as chance or recollection served them, many of them as they retired fired on the Enemy who were engaged near the fires which gave light enough to make them a certain mark, in a few minutes the Militia were dispersed, the General escaped from his tent into the river just as the Enemy entered it, Major Wemyss was wounded early in the action, and his party dispirited by this accident, retreated so hastily that they did not carry off their wounded; Wemyss was left at a neighbouring House, so that the retreat of the British was immediately known; many of the Americans finding every thing quiet ventured to reconoitre the camp: the morning, hoping at least to recover their Horses, near a hundred reassembled again the next day, and joined by those who were collecting under the orders of the General, took a more secure position by crossing Broad-river.

Many of the Americans had brought with them into camp small contributions of spirits upon which they had made merry with their friends, among these was a Gentleman by the name of Crawford upwards of 60 years of life who had been always disting^d [for?] his patriotic zeal and that kind of enterprising spirit that courted every danger in the cause of Freedom. This veteran

pleased with the prospect of seeing his country again in arms, had spent the even^g jovially with his friends. About 11 O'clock he sunk into the arms of sleep overpowered by fatigue and copious libations of whisky. The surprise and dispersion of the camp had not disturbed his slumbers, towards day two wounded British soldiers crawled to the fire where he lay, and supposing Crawford to be dead, carelessly kicked him out of the way, This unceremonious treatment rousing the old man from his slumbers, he challenged them in an angry tone for their rudeness; the poor fellows declared they tho't he had been killed in the action, and being dead had no farther occasion for the fire, and concluded with imploring his forgiveness and protection. [He] shouldered a musket that lay by him, and immediately exclaimed "By the God of battles I kin claim the ground and the victory of the Americans" This patriotic veteran was found by his companions next morning walking as if on duty with the most soldierly composure near his prisoners.

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page 170¹¹³

Remarks on Gordon's History continued.

Mr Gordon attempts to relate here the defeat of Col^o Piles¹¹⁴ by Col^o Lee, he has mistaken the place, and the manner in which the action was fought, and the numbers of the killed & wounded. (Col^o Lee or Col^o Polk, or Pickens could [recall ?] it thusly)

pa. 171¹¹⁵

From the minute detail of the affairs at Whitsill's mill¹¹⁶ Mr Gordon I suppose rec^d the relation from Col Williams;¹¹⁷ I was not present, being with the main Army; and can only say that Col^o Williams was reproached for suffering so important a movement of the Enemy to take place without observing it, 'till he had scarce time to escape himself, altho' he commanded a party of *observation*, and the salvation of the Army depended upon his vigilance—This seems to be confessed in Gordons account, altho' it is unintelligible from the minutiae with which he had crowded the relation. Gen^l Greene was at that moment more exposed than he had ever been.

Queries by Doctor Williamson¹¹⁸

- N^o 1. How many Militia marched as 4 moth drafts under Ashe & Rutherford to Georgia & S^o Carolina in Nov^r 78.
- N^o 2 What number in March 79 under Butler &c
- N^o 3 What number succeeded them & under whom
- 4th How many were in the Garrison of Charleston
- 5th How many were embodied before Gates defeat &c. under whom.
- 6th How many afterwards and under whom. viz. Oct^r Nov^r &c.
- 7th How many at the battle of Guilford &c. and under whom.
- 8th What Militia were embodied during the march of L^d Cornwallis from Wilmington to Virginia
- 9th What numbers afterwards in the summer 81 & where.
- 10th What numbers were embodied at the evacuation of Wilmington.
- 11th The rise and progress of Fanning

pa. 173¹¹⁹

174

Battle of Guilford.

Mr Gordon appears to have garbled as his fancy or prejudices directed the relation made by Gen^l Greene of this action—He speaks to be sure of the N^o Carolina Militia as they deserved, but it is Justice to the men to observe they never were so wretchedly officered as they were that day¹²⁰—but he attributes the glory acquired by Stevens¹²¹ brigade to the whole of the Virginia Militia, when the truth is, Lawson's¹²² brigade fought as illy as the N^o Carolinians The only difference was they did not run entirely home.

Nothing could exceed the gallantry of the 1st Maryland regiment,¹²³ and with this he has veiled the disgraceful conduct of the 2^d 124—

I have always understood that the disgrace of the 2^d Regiment that day was owen to the mistaken conduct of Col^o Ford & Col^o Williams¹²⁵—that Ford ordered a charge, that proceeded some distance, and were halted by Col^o Williams, and perhaps ordered again to fall back and dress w^t the line, The British continued to

advance, This manouvre was performed under a heavy fire—when the men were again ordered to advance they all faced about, except a single company on the left which I think was Cap^t Oldhams¹²⁶—The Virginia Brigade com^d by Huger¹²⁷ was covered from the Enemy by their situation and were only very partially engaged as they were filing off in the retreat: so they had no opportunity of acquiring any glory except that of not runing away at the noise of the firing. The fact is the whole battle was fought by Stevens brigade and the first Maryland regiment. (General Greene's letter¹²⁸ will give the outline of this action better than any other account, his own mistakes and the behavior of some part of the troops were of course not mentioned)

No degree of talents will compensate for the want of experience, and the battle of Guilford is clear evidence of this observation—while the contest depended upon mere manouvre General Greene evinced his superiority upon every movement; but when they came to action the ascendancy of the British General was apparent—

—The Ground thro' which the British were obliged to approach the Army of Gen^l Greene for 4 miles was covered with woods, deep ravines and broken ground, well calculated to favor the action of Militia and equally unfavorable to the action of Cavalry and the discipline of regular troops had the General served up his 3000 Militia attacking the British army by Brigade availing himself of the various situations afforded by the strong grounds, and the embarrassment of the Enemy, Lord Cornwallis must have been so crippled before he reached the open grounds at the Court-house, that he must have sunk under the attack of 1500 fresh troops well disciplined and appointed emulous of glory and anxious to avenge their own and their country's wrongs.

It was certainly a great mistake to draw up the militia to await the attack of regular troops for several hours, and the position of the front line was actually advantageous to the Enemy, the elevated grounds enabled them to display with order and despatch, and a common rail fence behind which about half the N^o Carolina Militia were posted was a cover too insignificant to inspire any confidence, the rest of the line was as much exposed as any Troops could be in the woods.

General Greene by the Disposition of his Troops does not appear to have conceived the design of conquering but crippling Lord-Cornwallis—His 2^d line was too remote from the 1st to give it any support, and the position of the continentals forbad any movement

that could either succour the 2^d line or second their efforts—That each division became stationary and Gen^l Greene appears to have calculated alone upon the impetuosity of Lord Cornwallis as the means of bringing his troops into action.

Websters brigade¹²⁹ advanced so far on their left, that they turned compleately the right flank of the front line—while the Hessians and Leslie¹³⁰ approached the extremity of their left, These dispositions contributed to the flight of the North Carolinians and Lawson's Brigade and at length produced the retreat of the Virginia line, and the rem^r of the Mary^d brigade, as the advance of Websters brigade would have brought them fully into the rear of the regular troops while the other two columns after dispersing the militia could form directly in their front.

Vol. 3^d
pa. 190¹³¹

Mr Gordon I observe has taken this account of the action before Camden on the 25th of Ap. .81 from Col^o Williams's M.S.S.¹³² in which William's dislike of Gunby is apparent—Was this mistake of Gunby the reason why the 2 [nd] Maryland regiment behaved so ill?—Or could Gunby's conduct influence the behavior of the Virginia line, who were repeatedly lead up to action by Gen^l Greene in person, and could not be induced to stand the fire of the enemy: the presence of the General seconded by the exertions of Huger Hawes¹³³ & Campbell.¹³⁴

Nothing was more conspicuous this day than the personal bravery of Gen^l Greene who behaved more like a Cap^t of Grenadiers than a Major General; but these were exertions to retrieve the fortune of the day.

Vol. 3^d
pa. 193¹³⁵

Mr Gordon gives here a copy of a letter from Gen^l Greene to Gov^r Reed,¹³⁶ in which he asperses the military and political character of North Carolina in a most unwarrantable manner¹³⁷—The small number of our force at that time in the field is easily accounted for; in the distressed circumstances of the Country & the prodigious exertions the state had been making for two years preceding.¹³⁸

Answers to Queries by Doctr Williamson in page 53.

N^o 1

In Nov^r 77 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the Gov^r to detach an aid from the Militia not exceeding 5000, to serve there in any of the U States during the next campaign—but not exceeding 12 Months—(vid. cha. 19)¹³⁹ 2,500 marched under Ashe & Rutherford on the notice that a Detachment of the British were sent from N. York to the Southward—This detachm^t was called out expressly for 5 Months.

N^o 2

An. 1500 men were ordered to be raised by Act of Assembly—about 1000 marched under Butler—bounty of Vol. [Volunteers]. 300 Dol^s of the draughted Sol^d 150 D^o—he marched out of the State about the 1st of Aprile .79. to serve 3 months—Act passed Jan^y '779.¹⁴⁰

N^o 3

In October '779 upon the application of S^o Carolina the Gen^l Assembly granted another aid of 3000 Men to serve 3 Mo^s [] pay & bounty. 1000 of these marched under General Lillington¹⁴¹ about the 1st of January '780 and were at Charleston when the siege commenced.¹⁴²

N^o 4th

An. Between three and four hundred.¹⁴³

N^o 5th

An. The Legislature in April '780 in consequence of the Invasion of South Carolina granted another aid of 4000 men forming four regiments and also in the same session passed a provisional law authorizing the Gov^r w^t advice &c if necessity required &c to send a further relief to S^o Carolina not exceeding eight thousand men—In consequence of which three Brigades of N^o Caro^a Mili^a were present at Gate's Defeat commanded by Rutherford, Butler & Gregory.¹⁴⁴—(vid. acts Ass. 1780. ch. 17.¹⁴⁵ and 26¹⁴⁶—) In the month of September 80 they passed the Act for erecting a Board of War with full powers to call out the Mili^a &c, &c. (vid act ch. 10)¹⁴⁷ nothing could be more ridiculous than the manner this

Board was filled. Alexander the Little,¹⁴⁸ being a Warrior of great fame, was placed at the head of the board—

Penn¹⁴⁹ who was only fit to amuse children, and O. Davis¹⁵⁰ who knew nothing but the game of Whist composed the rest of the Board.

N^o 6

An. In the month of October & part of November there were about 1000 Militia under the command of Generals Davidson & Sumner, about 300 mounted Infantry and Colonel Davie, about [blank]¹⁵¹ under Cleveland,¹⁵² Shelby,¹⁵³ Sevier¹⁵⁴ and M^cDowall.¹⁵⁵ (see the relation of the late Col^o M^cDowall)¹⁵⁶—Gen^l Jones¹⁵⁷ marched nine hundred men in October 1780 to Gen^l Smallwoods Camp at Providence.

N^o 8.

An. Under Gen^l Lillington about 200 Brig^r Gen^l Caswell—one hundred & fifty under Gen^l Jones 200 These troops never made a junction, and of course were too feeble to oppose the progress of the Enemy.

Gen^l Jones marched to the aid of S^o Carolina in Decem^r '777 with 1200 men, these troops halted at Camden, their time of service was to have been six mo^s but were disbanded sooner, the occasion of their marching was the expected invasion of that State.

N^o Carolina raised 10 complete Regiments previous to April '778.

At the Ass. Session 78 a bill passed to fill or recruit them by raising 2648 men (vid ch. 1st)¹⁵⁸—

April 1780 Another law passed to raise 3000 men for 3 years (vide chap. 25)¹⁵⁹

April 1782. A requiⁿ by Law (vid cha 1st)¹⁶⁰ of every 20th man in the State between 16 y^{rs} & 50. to recruit Continental Battalions. Mem. In 77 or 78 on a requisition from Congress by a resolution a rege^t was raised in Halifax Dist^t amounting to 6 or 700 men for 12 mo. These men were pointed out by the M^a officers and obliged to march.

After the Battle of Guilford Gen^l Jones w^t a board of officers turned over about 400 men into the Cont^{al} service for 12 months for desertion from the army at and before the battle.

Part Two

On the 2^d of December 1780 Gen^l Greene arrived in Charlotte, and upon the 3^d the command of the remnant of the S^o Army devolved upon him, and was announced by Gen^l Gates in the orders of that day.

In order to form a correct idea of the difficulties the General had to encounter it will be necessary to take a view of the Country in which the operations of the winter campaign and probably those of the summer must take place in order to recover S^o Carolina and Georgia now completely occupied by the Enemy.

Lord Cornwallis encamped at Winnsborough a village about 35 miles below the advance posts of our army; this position supported two important points, Camden and Ninety-Six places of considerable strength; Camden communicated with some small posts on the Pedee River, and the garrison of Ninety Six kept open the communication with Augusta in Georgia, where some works had been formed, and garnished with troops. This chain of military posts commanded the whole interior of S^o Carolina, and the position at Winnsboro' placed the British General precisely on the line of his operations, commanded the resources of the Country, and sustained his Communication with Charleston.

The whole range of country extending for forty miles above the Enemy's line of posts had been alternately in the possession of various bodies of the American forces, and the detachments of the royal army during the preceding six months, and for a considerable part of that time had been charged with the support of the whole body of both Armies. The Whigs had generally fled from their plantations into N^o Car^a in the month of June, their crops were of course neglected, and the little that was harvested was consumed by the Enemy, and when the American detachments became possessed of any part of this intermediate Country, or marched thro' it, the Tories suffered in their turn; the troops of both armies took what they wanted without ceremony or accountability, and used it without measure or economy; an indifference

common to all armies in similar situations, produced by the impression, that perhaps the next day these resources may be in the hands of the Enemy.

The Country in the neighbourhood of Charlotte comprising the whole County of Mecklenburg had been exhausted by the alternate support of the American and British Army, and successive detachments of the Militia force, forming and encamping along that border of the State of N^o Car^a ever since the month of May, so completely had this Country been exhausted of provisions and forage that the Militia in Providence under Gen^l Smallwood and the regular force at Charlotte under Gen^l Gates must have retrograded farther towards the interior had they not been supplied by Col^o Davie who commanded the principal advance post of the Army near Landsford on the Catawba river, and pushed his foraging parties down into the country towards Camden, occupied by people who were generally Loyalists, and who had been hitherto protected by the positions and advance of the British Army; and even this resource now failed, as the Troops under the command of Col^o Davie had been discharged some days before the Generals arrival, their time of service having expired, and this post was consequently abandoned.

Under this State of things General Greene found the Army, without any regular Commissariat, or even the semblance of arrangement for the support of the army, without any magazines on the line of expected operations or even at any point in his rear. These difficulties were increased so as to appear irremediable, by the total want of money, and the annihilation of public credit in consequence of the depreciation of the paper currency.

The Quarter Masters department was in the same deplorable condition, all the public waggons and horses, with a great many which were private property fell into the hands of the Enemy at the defeat of General Gates on the 16th of August, and the transportation of the army depended principally upon the disagreeable and uncertain resource of impressment. General Greene had served as Quarter Master General to the army under the command of Gen^l Washington, and was well aware of the difficulties connected with its objects and duties, even under the most favorable circumstances; fortunately while he was on his way to take the command of the Southern Army he met with L^t Col^o Carrington¹ of the Artillery, who had then no command, and pressed upon him the acceptance of that appointment; Col^o Carrington was a man of considerable talents and the most persevering energy, and a more

fortunate choice could not have been made; he did not however join the army until the 7th of February at the time of its concentration at Guilford C^t House.

The supply of the army under existing circumstances appeared to be impracticable,² the most alarming consequences were apprehended from the entire destitution of the necessary means, and no person could be prevailed upon to accept the app^t of Commissary General,³ an office the duties and objects of which were pressing and incessant: Col^o Davie whose Corps had been discharged about the last of November was making arrangements to raise another body of Troops at the instance of General Morgan,⁴ who was to be charged with a separate command to operate on the left of the Enemy, and fired with the prospect of serving under this celebrated commander was entirely absorbed with this favorite project when General Greene applied to him to accept the appointment of Commissary General;⁵ he informed the General of His present views, and that he understood they had been approved by him; the General acknowledged that the project of raising another corps had been approved by himself, and after taking a rapid but impressive view of the exhausted situation of the Country, and the distressed condition of the army, concluded that if the army was not supplied it must retire to the interior towards Virginia or disperse, and the Enemy must be left in peaceable possession of the two Southern States. The Colonel having observed that being engaged principally in the field ever since he finished his collegiate studies in 76, although he knew something about the management of troops, he knew nothing about *money or accounts* that he must therefore be unfit for such an appointment, and was convinced he could render his country more Service by prosecuting his present plan—. The General replied that as to *Money and accounts* the Colonel would be troubled with neither, that there was not a single dollar in the military chest nor any prospect of obtaining any, that he must accept the appointment, and supply the army in the same manner that he had subsisted his own troops for the last six months; that he would render his country more essential service in this way than any other; that he might rely upon his support for the necessary detachments, and upon Col^o Carrington as far as practicable for the necessary transportation. The Generals eloquence prevailed, and the Colonel accepted the appointment under an express promise that it should be for as short a time as possible. Upon discussing this distressing subject it was agreed that any regular supply would become utterly

impracticable without the sanction and assistance of the Legislature of the State of N^o Carolina, which was then in Session, and the Colonel set out the next morning with letters from the Commander in Chief demonstrating the necessity of vigorous and efficient measures to support the Army.⁶

The absolute necessity of great exertions and even great sacrifices were apparent, the members of the Legislature⁷ were all animated with the most ardent patriotism, and the arrangements were promptly made, by Appointing Col^o Davie Commissary General of the State, levying a specific Tax⁸ in grain and salted provisions to be deposited at the Court houses of the different counties or such places as the Commissary General might direct within the respective counties subject to his order; these points were to become the future magazines of the Army; scattered, to be sure, over an immense space of country without regard to the operations of the Army, but it was the best arrangement that could be made under existing circumstances. These objects being effected Col^o Davie joined the Army upon its retreat at Guilford C^t House, where he entered upon the arduous duties of his appointment.

On the 23^d of February Gen^l Greene recrossed the Dan to pursue the route of Lord Cornwallis to Hillsborough, on the 15th of March he fought the battle of Guilford, and halted in the pursuit of the British Army on the 24th at Ramsays Mill on Deep-river,⁹ the whole of this interesting period was a continued display of military science in marches, countermarches, and positions, Lord Cornwallis exhausting all his strategems of war, and exerting every nerve to force the American General to action, while the latter greatly inferior in Strength and equipment, and expecting reinforcements displayed the most consummate address in parrying and avoiding the blow, while his proximity to the positions of the enemy imposed a salutary restraint on the light Troops [detachments] of the royal Army, and overawed the Loyalists who were numerous in that Section of the Country. Every 24 or 48 hours the position of the Army was changed from cautionary motives, every movement of the Enemy in whatever direction it might be, changed also the position, dictated the distance, and influenced the direction of the march of the American Army whether by night or by day. The well devised system of supply made by the Legislature of N. Car^a was not yet in full operation, a large part of the country comprised within the line of operations had been previously exhausted by the Enemy; the Grist-mills in the rear became the temporary depots of the Army every forward or

oblique movement of the Enemy made him master of these magazines, and General Greene could make no movement until the important question was first decided whether one or two days subsistence could be procured at the point on which the General proposed to march; the subject continually presented the most distressing difficulties; Col^o Davie attended the General every night usually between 11 and 12 O'clock when every person being removed or asleep and the map spread, the expected movements of the Enemy, and the positions proposed to be taken by our own Army were discussed with a view to this interesting object, the direction of the supplies in motion from the interior were to be changed, new depots were to be formed at the mills and occupied by small detachments of troops, and our subsistence again put to painful hazard; the General tracing the direction on the map with his finger would observe if the Enemy move in this direction, I must take a position there, can subsistence be procured, the answer was not unfrequently in the negative, "the enemy has ravaged that quarter and we have already gleaned what they left, if the distance is not to exceed the distance you mention, subsistence can only be procured at such and such points, and not even then in time without the greatest exertions and the concurrence of some fortunate circumstances in the timely change of the direction of the supplies in motion on the place where we are now encamped."

Thus were the movements of General Greene manouvring in the presence of a superior forcé, directed by a consummate General, in a great measure under the absolute control of the enemy, and constantly constrained and influenced by circumstances often imperious, and presenting difficulties of the most formidable aspect: His mind naturally of the most firm Texture, trained under arduous vicissitudes in the N^o Army, and rich in its own resources never dispaired for a moment under these appalling circumstances, and he steadily adhered to the principles of conduct he had adopted when he turned again upon the foe after his retreat over the Dan.

All the Staff departments of the Southern Army had been completely deranged by the defeat and dispersion under General Gates on the 16th of August, and the rapid succession of active Service, and the total want of regular means had also prevented the introduction of any thing like system into either the Commissary or Quarter Master Department; without money and without credit, subsistence depended upon compulsory collection

and the transportation on the same uncertain and unpleasant means; and although the General was ably supported by the ardent Zeal and unceasing energy of the Heads of these two departments aided by Col^o Davie's general knowledge of the inhabitants and the topography and resources of the Country, yet it requires little reflection to observe that it was impossible to avoid encountering new and distressing embarrassments with every change of position either of his own army or that of the Enemy, varying successively from day to day.

When Lord Cornwallis moved from Ramsays Mills in the direction of Cross-creek (now Fayetteville) General Greene saw that he would retire upon Wilmington, and in consequence of this movement changed the plan of campaign, and resolved to return into S^o Carolina, and on the 7th of April he commenced his march from that place for the Southward. A great part of the Country through which the General was obliged to march, in conformity with his views, to reach Camden in the shortest possible time, was extremely sterile, and the inhabitants generally hostile to the American cause, and after crossing the Pedee river the country had been exhausted in the preceding summer and autumn by the contending Armies. While the Army lay before Camden and upon its subsequent march to Ninety-six measures were adopted to draw its subsistence from the depots in N^o Carolina, the distance however was great, the transportation notwithstanding all the efforts of Col^o Carrington difficult and precarious, and their arrival at Head Quarters of course irregular and uncertain. The Troops satisfied that every thing was done, that was practicable, appeared to be inspired with the zeal of the General who commanded them, and sustained their privations without a murmur. General Greene had unceasingly pressed Congress to adopt some plan of supporting the S^o Army by purchase, and during the siege of Ninety Six _____ Forsyth¹⁰ arrived vested with the necessary powers for that purpose, and Col^o Davie was released from the arduous and disagreeable duties of his Department, and again despatched on a mission to the General Assembly of N^o Carolina to urge them to adopt some means of recruiting their regiments of Continental Troops which had been annihilated by the fall of Charleston in May 1780.

The mind looks back with astonishment on the perseverance and success with which General Greene passed through this awful crisis on which depended the recovery of S^o Carolina and Georgia

and the Independence of the whole Southern Section of the Union. Many of the greatest Captains of every age have been obliged either to abandon their object, or sacrifice their Armies on the failure of Subsistence, even when they had all the advantage of previous arrangement, aided by despotic power. Frederic the Great has recorded with all the fidelity of History his numerous embarrassments and painful sacrifices in consequence of the failure of subsistence, and we have seen the most formidable army of modern times commanded by the late Emperor of France utterly destroyed from the same cause. The public Treasury sunk under the drain of millions expended in the support of the N^o Western Army under General Harrison in the late war of 1812, and the embarrassment and sufferings of our Troops in every other quarter from the same source under all the advantages derived from an existing well organized government will never be forgotten. ----

Remarks on the battle of Hobkirk's hill

This battle is very well described by Col^o Lee in his Memoirs but his note in pa. 61 might lead to some incorrect inferences¹¹—He says no notice of the attack was given until our piquets fired.”—The narrow sandy ridge called Hobkirk's Hill is so close to Camden, that the village and the enemys works were visible from our camp and the piquets were advanced to the edge of the common, within less than cannon shot of the works.—There was no room for Horse patroles, the enemy were of course discovered by the sentinels of our piquets as soon as they issued from the lines of their own on that side. The first notice was of course received from them.

He also says, “that the Troops in the hurry of forming had not got settled before the enemy advanced.”

The two piquets in front were commanded by Cap^{ts} Benson¹² and Morgan,¹³ and were soon supported by Cap^t Kirkwood,¹⁴ who was also posted in advance, w^t the remains of the Delaware Reg^t, and they slowly retired in perfect order keeping up a steady fire on the Enemy who advanced with the caution necessary to preserve their own order, and so slowly that almost all the men in the ranks of our line on the right had sat down by permission or order, in the military phrase “to ease their joints”—The line was perfectly “settled” and an animated though solemn joy appeared to pervade the whole army.

The battle was lost for want of troops to form the second line or proper reserve, a single half battalion to have replaced the two companies in Gunby's regiment which fell back would have restored the fortune of the day. The critique of General Lee on the disposition of the cavalry, I admit is just, had they still been held in reserve, the 1st Maryland regiment would probably have resumed its courage, and the forward move of the enemy might have been check'd by a timely and spirited charge. (Lee was not present.)

General Greene was deeply disgusted with the conduct of General Sumter, who had repeatedly refused to obey his express and urgent orders to join him before Camden; to this strange and unmilitary conduct of Sumter he justly attributed his incapacity to effect the complete investment of Camden, the loss of the action on the 25th, and the arrival of reinforcements under Watson¹⁵ to the Enemy; and considering him as a mere Pandour or free-booter, whose sole object was plunder and who therefore would neither act under him nor in concert with him, he would certainly have arrested him, but from considerations arising from the State of the Country at the time, and the hope that these rambling expeditions of Sumter might arrest the attention of the enemy, and be considered by them as connected with some plan of general operations and thereby attract more attention than they really deserved.¹⁶

General Greene had taken a strong position on the West side of the Wateree on the _____ of May¹⁷ in the vicinity of Camden, and being informed that Col^o Watson had evaded Marion and Lee he retired up the Wateree to Sawney's Creek¹⁸ on the 7th, and upon the advance of Lord Rawdon, he again retreated on the following day to Colonel's Creek,¹⁹ and on the 9th he took a strong position still higher up the river and this evening sent for me earlier than usual; I found the map on the table, and he introduced the business of the night with the following striking observations, which serve to shew the State of his mind at that trying crisis.—“You see that we must again resume the partizan war, Rawdon has now a decided superiority of force, he has pushed us to a sufficient distance to leave him free to act on any object within his reach, he will strike at Lee and Marion, reinforce himself by all the troops that can be spared from the several garrisons and push me back to the mountains; you acted in this quarter in the last campaign, and I wish you to point out the military positions on both sides of the river, ascending it to the mountains, and give me the necessary

information as to the prospect of subsistence, you observe our dangerous and critical situation, the regular troops are now reduced to a handful, and I am now without militia sufficient to perform the convoy and detachment service, or any prospect of receiving any reinforcements of this description; Sumter refuses to obey my orders, and carries off with him *all the active force* of this unhappy State on rambling predatory expeditions unconnected with the operations of the army. North Carolina dispirited by the loss of her regular line in Charleston, stunned into a kind of stupor by the defeat of General Gates, and held in check by Major Cruger²⁰ and the Loyalists makes no efforts of any kind; Congress seem to have lost sight of the Southern States, and to have abandoned them to their fate, so much so, that we are even as much distressed for ammunition as men. We must always calculate on the maxim that *Your Enemy will do, what he ought to do*—We will dispute every inch of ground in the best manner we can—but Rawdon will push me back to the mountains; Lord Cornwallis will establish a chain of posts along James River *and the Southern States, thus cut off, will die like the Tail of a Snake.*” These are his very words, they made a deep and melancholly impression, and I shall never forget them.—After expressing an anxious desire to remain as near as possible to aid or cover the retreat of Lee from Fort Motte we recurred again to the map, where I had it in my power from personal knowledge to assure him that the Country abounded in strong military positions, and as to subsistence there would be no difficulty, as we should be falling back on our depots or Magazines in N^o Carolina; that if he was obliged to retreat further he must permit me to resume my original plan, as I was morally certain a respectable force could be raised in the Western Districts of that State. —The interview concluded by his informing me that he would dispatch an express to Philadelphia in the morning, and requesting me to write to the members of Congress with whom I was acquainted, painting in the strongest colors our situation and gloomy prospects.

General Greene possessed in an eminent degree those high energies requisite to conquer appalling difficulties, united with that cool moral courage which resists the anguish of disappointment and the pressure of misfortune; I never observed his mind yield to despondency but at this gloomy moment, when he conceived himself not only abandoned by all the constituted authorities of the confederacy but even by that portion of the population of the Southern States who had everything to hope from his success, and every thing to fear from his failure.

I employed the whole night writing until an orderly Serjeant summoned me to Head-Quarters about day-light; on entering the General's tent, I soon perceived some important change had taken place; "I have sent for you, said he, with a countenance expressing the most lively pleasure, to inform you that Lord Rawdon has evacuated Camden—that place was the key to the Enemy's line of posts—they will now all fall or soon be evacuated—All will now go well.—Burn your letters—I shall march immediately to the Congaree, arrange your convoys to follow us, and let me know what expresses and detachments you will want."

The General's mind was of that luminous cast which gives extensive range to the mental view, and highly endowed with the powers of calculation and deduction he immediately fore-saw and predicted all the consequences of the mistaken movement of the British Commander and instantly changed his plan of operations and assumed the offensive.

Footnotes: Part One

¹ See map, frontispiece. A reprint of this map, originally published in 1785, appears as the frontispiece in David Ramsay, *The History of the Revolution of South Carolina, From a British Province To an Independent State* (Trenton: Printed by Isaac Collins, 2 volumes, 1785), I, hereinafter cited as Ramsay, *Revolution of South Carolina*.

² Correctly spelled Purysburg, this was "a small village on the northern banks of the river Savannah," in St. Peters Parish, north of the town of Savannah. See map, frontispiece; also, Ramsay, *Revolution of South Carolina*, II, 12; William Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution* (New York: Printed by David Longworth for the Author, 2 volumes, 1802), I, 16, hereinafter cited as Moultrie, *Memoirs*.

³ This creek, incorrectly spelled "Bryar" and "Brier" instead of "Briar," was described by General John Ashe: "The Creek makes out of the Savannah River, on the Georgia side, about sixty miles below Augusta. . . ." Gen. John Ashe to Gov. Richard Caswell, March 17, 1779, Walter Clark (ed.), *State Records of North Carolina* (Goldsboro and Winston: State of North Carolina, 16 volumes, numbered XI-XXVI, 1895-1907), XIV, 40, hereinafter cited as Clark, *State Records*.

The defeat referred to occurred March 3, 1779, when General John Ashe, dispatched by General Benjamin Lincoln, with 1,500 North Carolina militia, to threaten Augusta, was surprised by Colonel Mark Prevost (brother of General Augustine Prevost) and a detachment of 900 men who succeeded in routing the Americans completely. Four hundred of the latter were killed or wounded, two hundred taken prisoners, and only 450 of them rejoined Lincoln. See the Hon. J. W. Fortescue, *A History of the British Army* (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited, 13 volumes, 1902), III, 273-275; Ramsay, *Revolution of South Carolina*, II, 16; Moultrie, *Memoirs*, I, 322-326; R. D. W. Connor, *The Colonial and Revolutionary Periods, 1584-1783*, Volume I of *History of North Carolina*, by R. D. W. Connor, William K. Boyd, J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, and others (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 6 volumes, 1919), 456, hereinafter cited as Connor, *The Colonial and Revolutionary Periods*.

⁴ General Andrew Williamson's camp was opposite Augusta. Here, according to Lieutenant Governor Thomas Bee, writing to Governor Richard Caswell, May 5, 1779, "Colonel" Butler had just arrived "with 700 men from your State." Clark, *State Records*, XIV, 78; see also p. 119.

⁵ John Butler represented Orange County, North Carolina, in the House of Commons for the years 1777 and 1778 and in the Senate in 1781. He was appointed colonel of the state militia from Orange County by the Fourth Provincial Congress in April, 1776, and was a brigadier general in the North Carolina militia, 1780-1781. Clark, *State Records*, XIV, iv, 119; John H. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina, from 1584 to 1851. Compiled From Original Records, Official Documents, and Traditional Statements. With Biographical Sketches of Her Distinguished Statesmen, Jurists, Law-*

yers, *Soldiers, Divines, Etc.* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Co., 1851), I, 81; II, 337, hereinafter cited as Wheeler, *Sketches*; North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution, *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution* (N.p.: North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution, 1932), 30, hereinafter cited as DAR *Roster*; David Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1889), 304-305, hereinafter cited as Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781*.

⁶ William Moultrie (Nov. 23/Dec. 4, 1730-Sept. 27, 1805) was appointed colonel of the Second Regiment by the first South Carolina provincial congress in 1775, and in September, 1776, his regiment was taken over by Congress, and he was soon made brigadier general in the Continental service. In May, 1780, he was captured with the garrison of Charleston and was held prisoner at Haddrell's Point, opposite the town, until his exchange in February, 1782. In October, 1782, he was made major general and was elected governor of the state in 1785 and again in 1791. His *Memoirs*, cited in note 2 *supra*, is a valuable primary source. See Allen Johnson, Dumas Malone, and others (eds.), *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 20 volumes, 1928; index and updating supplements), XIII, 293-294, hereinafter cited as *Dictionary of American Biography*.

⁷ General Augustine Prevost, who, with 2,000 regulars from Florida, had joined Colonel Archibald Campbell in Savannah in January, 1779. Fortescue, *History of the British Army*, III, 270; Connor, *The Colonial and Revolutionary Periods*, 454.

⁸ This bridge was over the Tulifinny River (see map, frontispiece) which enters into the Broad River approximately sixty miles from Charleston.

⁹ William Gordon, *The History of the Rise, Progress, and Establishment of the Independence of the United States of America: Including An Account of the Late War; and of the Thirteen Colonies, From Their Origin To That Period* (London: Printed for the Author; and Sold by Charles Dilly, 4 volumes, 1788), hereinafter cited as Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*; for Ramsay, see note 2, *supra*.

¹⁰ Ashley Ferry was about ten miles up the Ashley River from Charleston. See Robert Mills, *Atlas of the State of South Carolina. A New Facsimile Edition of the Original Published in 1825. With An Introduction by Francis Marion Hutson of the Historical Commission of South Carolina* (Columbia, S. C.: Lucy Hampton Bostick and Fant Thornley, 1937).

¹¹ Casimir Pulaski (c. 1748-October 1779), a defeated Polish patriot, arrived penniless in Paris late in 1775. He was sent to America by Franklin and after months of indecision on the part of Congress during which time he organized an independent corps of cavalry, he was finally ordered in February, 1779, to the support of General Lincoln in South Carolina. He fell at the siege of Savannah, October 9, and died on board the *Wasp*, probably October 11. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XV, 259-260.

¹² Dorchester, a village about fifteen miles northwest of Charleston, was a fortified post with a water connection with Charleston by the Ashley River and a secure retreat by either of its banks. See map, frontispiece. This action took place May 13. Moultrie, *Memoirs*, I, 438; George Washington Greene, *The Life of Nathanael Greene, Major-General in the Army of the Revolution* (New York: Hurd and Houghton, 3 volumes, 1871), III, 419, hereinafter cited as Greene, *Greene*.

¹³ Colonel Daniel Horry, whose name, in typical South Carolina Huguenot fashion, was pronounced as Davie wrote it (and with accent on the second syllable), commanded a troop of light horse. Moultrie, *Memoirs*, I, 411.

¹⁴ Davie had been appointed by Governor Richard Caswell "Lieut. of a Company of Horse in the District of Salisbury," April 5, 1779, and was on the same day attached to Pulaski's Legion. Commission in W. R. Davie Papers, No. 1, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill, hereinafter cited as W. R. Davie Papers, No. 1 or No. 2; Colonel Preston Davie to the author, November 13, 1950, in author's possession, quoting P. C. Harris, The Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.; also Clark, *State Records*, XIV, 291.

¹⁵ See map, frontispiece. This bridge was at the head of the Ashley River. Greene, *Greene*, III, 449.

¹⁶ Blank in MS. The correct date is May 18, 1779. Moultrie, *Memoirs*, I, 453.

¹⁷ Pulaski, however, was not present. Greene, *Greene*, III, 131.

¹⁸ Blank in original MS. "John's" was added in pencil by Fordyce M. Hubbard, Davie's antebellum biographer. Hereinafter, all words in brackets were not in original MS, but were added later by Hubbard.

¹⁹ See map, frontispiece.

²⁰ This was sometime around May 30, because Moultrie reported on that date that, "The enemy are throwing up some works at Stono ferry." Moultrie, *Memoirs*, I, 464.

²¹ Lieutenant Colonel Maitland, left in command by General Prevost, was described by "Light Horse Harry" Lee as an officer who "possessed a growing reputation which he well deserved." Fortescue, *History of the British Army*, III, 277; Robert E. Lee (ed.), *Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States by Henry Lee, Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Partisan Legion During the American War. A New Edition, With Revisions, and a Biography of the Author* (New York: University Publishing Co., 1869), 129, hereinafter cited as Lee, *Memoirs*.

²² Brigadier General Jethro Sumner, of Warren County, North Carolina, had been appointed by the Fourth Provincial Congress in April, 1776, colonel of the Third Regiment of the Continental Troops and had served under Washington. On January 9, 1779, upon the nomination of the North Carolina assembly, the Continental Congress promoted him to brigadier general, assigned him to the command of the North Carolina brigade, and ordered him south to the defense of Georgia and South Carolina. Connor, *The Colonial and Revolutionary Periods*, 439-441. For a brief account of his later exploits, see Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 425-426.

²³ This would have to be on the enemy's left. This battle formation is at variance with that described in Lee, *Memoirs*, but inasmuch as Davie was an active participant in the battle, it can probably be assumed that his is the correct formation. Perhaps this is one of the errors to which Davie was referring when he wrote that he sincerely wished "that General Lee would print another edition of his memoirs, in which the mistakes in point of fact might be corrected, and his military reflections enlarged. . . . his mistakes as to facts, are not numerous, and only where he has copied from the other writers." W. R. Davie to J. F. Grimké January 24, 1815. W. R. Davie Papers, No. 2, Southern Historical Collection. According to Lee, General Lincoln placed Sumner's regulars on his left rather than in the center, in order that they might be opposite to Lieutenant Colonel Maitland's Highlanders, who were supposed to be the best troops of the enemy. Lee, moreover, makes no mention of "the So. Carolina brigade." Lee, *Memoirs*, 130. Fordyce M. Hubbard, *Life of William Richardson Davie*, Volume XV of *The Library of American Biography*, edited by Jared Sparks (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 25 volumes, 1848, Second Series), 8, follows Davie's account literatim, hereinafter cited as Hubbard, *Davie*.

²⁴ This probably refers to Colonel David Mason (1740-1820), of Sussex County, Virginia, who served on the Committee of Safety in Virginia, was a member of the Virginia convention, 1775, and colonel of the Fifteenth Virginia Regiment. National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, *Lineage Book* (Harrisburg, Pa. and Washington, D. C.: Various published, 166 volumes, 1895-1935), XXXVIII, 130; LII, 296, hereinafter cited as DAR, *Lineage Book*.

²⁵ Colonel William Henderson was from up-country South Carolina, in what is now Spartanburg County. He "greatly distinguished himself during the siege of Charlestown." He was held as a prisoner at Haddrell's Point, and upon his release he saw action at Eutaw Springs, where he was wounded. He was later advanced to brigadier general and elected to the Jacksonborough Assembly, called to meet in January, 1782, by Governor John Rutledge. Edward McCrady, *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1780-1783* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1902), 415-416, 452, 559, hereinafter cited as McCrady, *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1780-1783*.

²⁶ Colonel Francis Malmedy was a French officer, who, early in the war, served in Rhode Island. He was appointed brigadier general by that state. Later, May 10, 1777, he was appointed a colonel in the Continental service by the Continental Congress, and, feeling it inconsistent with his previous appointment, he complained to Washington, but to no avail. Benjamin Franklin Stevens (ed.), *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy* (London: 4 Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross, 2 volumes, 1888), II, 444, hereinafter cited as Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*.

²⁷ See note 21, *supra*.

²⁸ Ramsay, *Revolution of South Carolina*, II, 30.

²⁹ Johns Island. See map, frontispiece.

³⁰ Ramsay, *The Revolution of South Carolina*, II, 29-30.

³¹ May 12, 1780.

³² Abraham Buford, of Virginia, was made colonel of General Daniel Morgan's Eleventh Virginia Regiment May 16, 1778. His company of about 300 Continentals was overtaken by Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton with about 700 horse and foot soldiers at the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780. After a brief action, Buford soon begged quarter, though a few of his men continued to fire. This accidental firing was Tarleton's excuse to direct the British legion to charge the unresisting Americans. Tarleton's official account reported 113 Americans killed, 150 badly wounded, and 53 made prisoners. "Tarleton's quarters" has thus become proverbial. Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, III, 360-361; Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 409.

³³ James Moore, who lived six or seven miles west of Lincolnton, North Carolina, joined the British the preceding winter in South Carolina and on his return home he was attired in a tattered British uniform with a sword dangling at his side. He promptly announced himself as lieutenant colonel in the regiment of North Carolina Loyalists, commanded by Colonel John Hamilton, of Halifax. He took an active part in arousing and increasing the tory element throughout the country. C. L. Hunter, *Sketches of Western North Carolina, Historical and Biographical, Illustrating Principally the Revolutionary Period of Mecklenburg, Rowan, Lincoln and Adjoining Counties, Accompanied with Miscellaneous Information, Much Of It Never Before Published* (Raleigh: The Raleigh News Steam Job Press, 1877), 215, hereinafter referred to as Hunter, *Sketches*; Edward McCrady, *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1901), 580-581, hereinafter cited as *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780*.

³⁴ Samuel Bryan of Rowan County, North Carolina, had assembled a considerable force of tories in the forks of the Yadkin in the north end of Rowan County adjoining Surry, about 75 miles northeast of Ramsour's. He lived a few miles beyond the shallow ford on the west side of the Yadkin. Later, in 1781, he, along with Lieutenant Colonel John Hampton and Captain Nicholas White, of the same regiment, were arrested and tried for high treason. At the trial, presided over by Judges Samuel Spencer and John Williams, the

prosecution was conducted by Alfred Moore, the attorney general, the defense by Richard Henderson, John Penn, John Kinchen, and William R. Davie. It was said that Davie's defense of Bryan was such a "brilliant exhibition of his forensic ability" that his services were employed in all capital cases and that as a criminal lawyer he had no rival in the state. All three of the loyalist defendants were convicted and sentenced to death, but the four counselors for the defense petitioned Governor Thomas Burke for clemency as they were "uneasily of opinion that this execution would be a reflection upon our Government." As a result, the tories were pardoned and subsequently exchanged for officers of equal rank. Clark, *State Records*, XX, 614; Hunter, *Sketches*, 184; William Henry Hoyt (ed.), *The Papers of Archibald D. Murphey* (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission [Division of Archives and History], 2 volumes, 1914), II, 228, hereinafter cited as Hoyt, *Murphey Papers*. It is interesting to note that Hubbard, Davie's biographer, erroneously maintained that Davie's defense was a "pure fiction," since Bryan was never brought to trial. Hubbard, *Davie*, 84.

³⁵ Francis Locke of Rowan County, North Carolina, was appointed colonel of the First Rowan Regiment by the Fourth Provincial Congress in April, 1776. He had been attached to General Lincoln's army when General Ashe was defeated at Briar Creek and served on the court-martial to inquire into that affair. Wheeler, *Sketches*, I, 81; Hunter, *Sketches*, 181; Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 409; Connor, *The Colonial and Revolutionary Periods*, 461.

³⁶ Griffith Rutherford, an Irishman, resided in Rowan County, North Carolina, west of Salisbury, and represented that county in the House of Commons in 1775. The following year, in April, he was appointed a brigadier general for the District of Salisbury by the Fourth Provincial Congress. He commanded a brigade in the ill-fated battle of Camden, where he was taken prisoner by the British, and, after being exchanged, took command at Wilmington when the British evacuated it. In 1786 he was state senator from Rowan County. Soon thereafter he removed to Tennessee, where, in 1794, he was appointed president of the legislative council of the General Assembly. Wheeler, *Sketches*, I, 79; II, 383-384.

³⁷ General Thomas Sumter of South Carolina.

³⁸ A South Carolina partisan leader, Colonel Andrew's surname was variously spelled Neale, Neel, and Neal. McCrady, *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1780-1783*, 717; Hubbard, *Davie*, 21-22.

³⁹ Beattie's Ford was on the Catawba River six miles above Cowan's Ford and eighteen miles from Ramsour's Mill (see map, frontispiece), while Sherrill's was about fifteen miles from Beattie's Ford and twenty-five from Ramsour's Mill. General Joseph Graham, "Revolutionary History of North Carolina: British Invasion of 1780-81," *North-Carolina University Magazine*, IV (October, 1855), No. 8, p. 342 n, hereinafter cited as Graham, "Revolutionary History"; Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, I, 357. For an excellent map, showing Beattie's, Sherrill's and Tuckasegee Fords, see map, p. 6. The original is in the North Carolina State Office of Archives and History, Raleigh. It is reprinted in John Brevard Alexander, *The History of Mecklenburg County From 1740 to 1900* (Charlotte: Observer Printing House, 1902), 1, hereinafter cited as Alexander, *Mecklenburg*.

⁴⁰ William Falls, of Rowan County (now Iredell), was a captain of the North Carolina Partisan Rangers. DAR *Roster*, 34; Hunter, *Sketches*, 217.

⁴¹ Joshua Bowman was appointed second lieutenant, First North Carolina Regiment, September 1, 1775; first lieutenant, November 15, 1775; captain, September 18, 1776. He was wounded at Charleston, May 12, 1780. DAR *Roster*, 28; Wheeler, *Sketches*, I, 71.

⁴² William Armstrong was appointed an ensign in the First North Carolina Regiment, January 4, 1776; second lieutenant, April 10, 1776; first lieutenant, January 1, 1777; and captain, August 20, 1777. Though reported by Davie, Wheeler, and Hunter as being killed in action at Ramsour's, the DAR *Roster*, 27, lists him as wounded on that date, transferred to the Third North Carolina Regiment February 6, 1782, and retired, January 1, 1783. Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 232; Hunter, *Sketches*, 217.

⁴³ Captain Patrick Knox. Hunter, *Sketches*, 217.

⁴⁴ It appears that Davie was mistaken both as to the rank and degree of injury to the first two of these men, both of whom were North Carolina militia captains and both survived their injuries. According to Hunter, *Sketches*, 196-197, 217, Captain James Houston was severely wounded in the thigh, but did not die. This fact is corroborated by Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 232. Captain Daniel McKissick later represented Lincoln County in the House of Commons from 1783 to 1787. Hunter, *Sketches*, 217; Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 232, 247. They are both listed as wounded by the DAR *Roster*, 41, 38, 468-69. No mention is made in any of the above of Patton, but he was probably Joseph Patton, of the Salisbury District, who was appointed an ensign by the Fourth Provincial Congress, April, 1776. Wheeler, *Sketches*, I, 80.

⁴⁵ Major Archibald McArthur, a British officer of the Seventy-First Regiment, afterwards lieutenant colonel, Sixtieth Regiment, was at this time stationed at Cheraw Mills, South Carolina. See map, frontispiece; Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 444.

⁴⁶ Probably Robert Crawford (1728-1801) who was born in Pennsylvania, served as major in the South Carolina line, and died in Lancaster District, South Carolina. DAR, *Lineage Book*, XIV, 9; CXXXIII, 43.

⁴⁷ This officer was listed as Colonel William Hagins by Hunter, *Sketches*, 105, 112; as Colonel Higgins by Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 191; and as Heaggins by Lee, *Memoirs*, 176.

⁴⁸ Unidentifiable.

⁴⁹ William Polk was born in Mecklenburg County in 1759, the son of Colonel Thomas Polk. He later represented Mecklenburg County in the House of Commons, in 1787, 1790, and 1791. Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 190, 268; Hunter, *Sketches*, 56.

⁵⁰ This creek rises in the southern part of Lancaster County, South Carolina, and flows in a southwesterly direction into the Wateree Pond, southeast of Liberty Hall.

⁵¹ Unidentifiable.

⁵² Robert Irwin not only distinguished himself in the Mecklenburg (North Carolina) Militia, but he represented that county in the provincial congresses in April and November, 1776, in the state senate 1778-1783, 1787, 1795, and 1797-1800, the latter date being the year of his death. Clark, *State Records*, XIX, 980, 988, 996; Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 268-269; Hunter, *Sketches*, 50-51.

⁵³ Rocky Mount was garrisoned by Lieutenant Colonel Turnbull, with 150 New York volunteers and some South Carolina militia. Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America* (London: Printed for T. Cadell, in the Strand, 1787), 94, hereinafter cited as Tarleton, *Campaigns*; Lee, *Memoirs*, 176.

⁵⁴ This captain, whose name is also spelled Flenchaw, Flencher, Flenchau, Flenchan, defies further identification, but it is possible that he was David Flennikin of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, who "served under Col. Irwin and Gen. Sumter at the battle of Hanging Rock, where he was wounded and carried to the hospital at Charlotte." Alexander, *Mecklenburg*, 413; Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781*, 73.

⁵⁵ In Chester County, South Carolina, some nineteen miles from Chester. To

his plantation near here, Tivoli, Davie was to retire in 1805.

⁵⁶ Colonel William Hill of York County, South Carolina, served under Sumter and at King's Mountain. He was a member of the Jacksonborough legislature, January 18, 1782. McCrady, *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1780-1783*, 559-600.

⁵⁷ Colonel Edward Lacey (1742-1813), in 1775, organized a company of volunteers and was commissioned captain, 1776, under General Williamson in the Cherokee expedition. In 1780 he was commissioned a colonel. Born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, he died in Livingston County, Kentucky. DAR, *Lineage Book*, LI, 36. His father was an uncompromising tory. McCrady, *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780*, 593-594.

⁵⁸ 500 men, according to Lee, *Memoirs*, 177.

⁵⁹ Of the Prince of Wales's American regiment. Charles Stedman, *The History of the Origin, Progress, and Termination of the American War* (Dublin: Printed for Messrs P. Wogan, P. Byne, J. Moore, and W. Jones, 2 volumes, 1794), II, 242, hereinafter cited as Stedman, *History of the American War*.

⁶⁰ Tarleton's Legion. Lee, *Memoirs*, 177.

⁶¹ Lieutenant Colonel John Hamilton, of the North Carolina Volunteers, was described as "one of the best of the Loyalist officers." His entire property in Halifax and vicinity was confiscated. He was later the British consul at Norfolk, Virginia, for many years. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 436; Walter Clark, "An Address upon the Life and Services of General William Richardson Davie, at the Guilford Battle Ground, July 4, 1892" (Greensboro: Reece, 1892), 10; Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781*, 274-275.

⁶² Richard Winn, of South Carolina, fought in many battles of the Revolution, served to the close of the war, and died in Winnsborough, which town was named for him. DAR, *Lineage Book*, LXII, 276; Samuel C. Williams (ed.), "General Richard Winn's Notes—1780," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XLIII (1942), 201-212; XLIV (1943), 1-10.

⁶³ Colonel Thomas Browne, tory leader, later commanded Fort Cornwallis at the siege of Augusta. The patriots, according to Fortescue, had "striven unsuccessfully to convert [him] to their opinion by roasting his feet at a slow fire," as a result of which he had taken his revenge upon his enemies without mercy. Fortescue, *History of The British Army*, III, 381-382; McCrady, *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1780-1783*, 268.

⁶⁴ The number of American losses, for want of regular returns and the fact that many of the wounded were carried home immediately, was never ascertained. See Lee, *Memoirs*, 178; Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 194.

⁶⁵ The British loss, according to Lee, *Memoirs*, exceeded ours. Notable among those killed were Captain McCulloch, "who commanded the Legion infantry with much personal honor," two other officers, and twenty men of the same corps, while about forty were wounded. In Colonel Browne's regiment many officers and men were killed, wounded, or taken prisoners. Colonel Bryan's loyalists suffered least, since they had dispersed as soon as they were pressed. Lee, *Memoirs*, 178.

⁶⁶ This, of course, refers to Davie, who arrived at Rugely's Mill (see map, frontispiece) just below Hanging Rock. He arrived on August 15, 1780, and, finding Gates's army gone, marched all night to overtake it, but was met the next day by the first part of American troops flying away from the battle of Camden. Lee, *Memoirs*, 188.

⁶⁷ Major Winn (see note 62 *supra*) and Colonel Hill (see note 56 *supra*) have already been identified. The others defy identification, with the exception of Captain John McClure of Chester District, South Carolina, who led a group of men known as the Chester Rocky Creek Irish. He fell, pierced by two bullets, at the first fire of Bryan's loyalists. Davie later eulogized him as follows: "Of all the many brave men with whom it was my pleasure to become

acquainted in the army, he was one of the bravest; and when he fell, we looked upon his loss as incalculable." Benson J. Lossing, *The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution; or, Illustrations, By Pen and Pencil, Of the History, Biography, Scenery, Relics, and Traditions of the War of Independence* (New York: Harper & Bros., 2 volumes, 1860), II, 457, n. 1, hereinafter cited as Lossing, *Field-Book of the Revolution*. Also see George Howe, *History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina* (Columbia: Duffie and Chapman, 2 volumes, 1870), I, 538-539; Hubbard, *Davie*, 30; Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 194; Lee, *Memoirs*, 178; and Hunter, *Sketches*, 108-109.

⁶⁸ Richard Caswell, of North Carolina, who had been a delegate to the Continental Congress, 1774-1775, president of the provincial congress, first governor of the independent state 1777-1779, had been appointed major general for the district of New Bern and led the North Carolina troops at Camden. Later he was speaker of the state senate, and again governor, 1784-1786. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 410-411.

⁶⁹ See map, frontispiece.

⁷⁰ About four miles north of Camden, it enters the Wateree at the head of navigation.

⁷¹ Mordecai Gist (1748-1792), born in Baltimore, Maryland, commanded the Baltimore Independent Company, 1775, was major of the Maryland regulars, 1776, and commissioned brigadier general, 1779. He was complimented for bravery at Camden and was present at Yorktown. DAR, *Lineage Book*, LVII, 30.

⁷² The rest of these "Observations" skip from page 25 in this MS to page 43.

⁷³ A certain Captain Martin "attended by two dragoons." Lee, *Memoirs*, 188.

⁷⁴ Sumter.

⁷⁵ The Catawba (North Carolina) or the Wateree (South Carolina).

⁷⁶ See map, frontispiece.

⁷⁷ Charles Campbell had been a lieutenant in the Seventy-First Highland Regiment which joined Howe's army at Staten Island in the fall of 1776. He was made captain lieutenant, November 11, 1778, and commanded the Highland light companies on the right at the battle of Camden. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 409-410.

⁷⁸ Fortescue maintained that "Sumter himself [was] but half dressed" and that he later "in the general confusion made his escape, which was unfortunate." Fortescue, *History of the British Army*, III, 320.

⁷⁹ Here Davie refers to a note in his MS, 44.

⁸⁰ Abner Nash (c. 1740-December 2, 1786) was the second governor of North Carolina and a delegate to the Continental Congress. As governor, he displayed great energy in preparing against the British invasion. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIII, 383-384.

⁸¹ This was not included in the extract of the letter of same date, from Hillsborough to the North Carolina delegates in Congress. Clark, *State Records*, XV, 60.

⁸² This statement is at variance with that of R. D. W. Connor, who, though he conceded that "Caswell's reputation had suffered only less than Gates," stated that Caswell did stop long enough in Charlotte to order out the militia of Mecklenburg, Rowan, and Lincoln counties. Connor, *The Colonial and Revolutionary Periods*, 466-467. However, this fact is not substantiated by "General Joseph Graham's Narrative of the Revolutionary War in North Carolina in 1780 and 1781," reprinted in Hoyt, *Murphey Papers*, II, 236.

⁸³ William Smallwood, a Marylander, has been described as "the only general officer who survived the rout at Camden with an increased reputation for courage and military talent." It was when the North Carolina assembly,

swallowing its pride, offered him the command of its militia, that Caswell resigned from the service and retired to his home in Kinston. Smallwood was made major general September 15, 1780, but returned to the North, refusing to serve under Baron Steuben. He was a member of Congress, 1785, and governor of Maryland, 1785-1788. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 456; Connor, *The Colonial and Revolutionary Periods*, 467.

⁸⁴ The commission, the original of which is in the Davie Papers, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, appointed Davie "Colonel and commander of all the militia Horse acting in the Western District" and was signed by Governor Abner Nash, September 5, 1780.

⁸⁵ Davidson, of Anson County, had been made a captain in the First North Carolina Regiment raised by the provincial congress in 1775. This later became the First North Carolina Continentals. Appointed major by the provincial congress in April, 1776, he represented Anson County in the House of Commons in 1777 and 1778. Wheeler, *Sketches*, I, 71, 81; Connor, *The Colonial and Revolutionary Periods*, 439.

⁸⁶ This village was twenty-five miles from the Waxhaws, on the road to Charlotte and about fourteen miles south of the latter, Amos Kendall, *Life of Andrew Jackson, Private, Military, and Civil* (New York: Harper & Bros., 1843), 28; William Johnson, *Sketches of the Life & Correspondence of Nathanael Greene, Major General of the Armies of the United States, in the War of the Revolution. Compiled Chiefly from Original Materials* (Charleston: A. E. Miller, 2 volumes, 1822), I, 509.

⁸⁷ Captain James Wauchope owned a plantation in the northwest corner of York County, South Carolina. See map, p. 6. The spelling of the captain's name is variously spelled Wahab, Wahub, and Walkup. However, Marquis James in his *Andrew Jackson: The Border Captain* is the only one who gives it correctly: Wauchope—according to the latter's great-grandson, William Henry Belk. See Legette Blythe, *William Henry Belk: Merchant of the South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1950), 17. Yet according to the grandson of this officer, the correct spelling was Walkup, though "the neighbors still frequently miscal us [Wahab]." Samuel H. Walkup (Monroe, N. C.) to David L. Swain, September 25, 1857. D. L. Swain Papers, Southern Historical Collection. His tombstone, in the cemetery of the old Waxhaw, South Carolina, Presbyterian Meeting House, bears the spelling "Wahub."

⁸⁸ According to a contemporary, Dr. Alexander Garden, who also served in Lee's Legion and was later aide-de-camp to Greene, "Sixty of the enemy were left on the ground . . . with the loss of but one man." *Anecdotes of the Revolutionary War in America with Sketches of Character of Persons the Most Distinguished, in the Southern States, For Civil and Military Services* (Charleston: Printed for the Author, by A. E. Miller, 1822), 39.

⁸⁹ William Lee Davidson, born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1746, moved with his father in 1750 to the western part of Rowan (now Iredell) County, North Carolina. He was appointed a major in 1776, served under Washington until November, 1779, when he was detached to reinforce General Lincoln. After being wounded at Colson's Mill, he was appointed brigadier general, was later detached by Greene to guard the ford selected by Cornwallis for crossing the Catawba, and was killed at Cowan's Ford. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 426; Hunter, *Sketches*, 95-98; Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 263-265. Also see Chalmers C. Davidson, *Piedmont Partisan: The Life and Times of Brigadier-General William Lee Davidson* (Davidson, N. C.: Davidson College, 1951).

⁹⁰ This road runs southwest from Charlotte to the Steele Creek Church, six miles away. See map, p. 6.

⁹¹ This route is marked on map, p. 6, by arabic numeral "3." "Phifers" was twenty miles from Charlotte, on the road to Salisbury. Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781*, 112.

⁹² Joseph Graham of Lincoln County, North Carolina. For a sketch of his life, see Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 233-237; see also Major William Alexander Graham, *General Joseph Graham and His Papers on North Carolina Revolutionary History, With Appendix: An Epitome of North Carolina's Military Services in the Revolutionary War and of the Laws Enacted for Raising Troops* (Raleigh: Published for the Author, by Edwards & Broughton, 1904).

⁹³ Here there occurs a gap of two or three lines, which were filled in as follows by Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 195: "rode up in person and said, 'Legion! Remember, you have everything to lose, but nothing to gain.'" This exhortation, omitted by Davie, came originally from Stedman, *History of the American War*, II, 239.

⁹⁴ George Locke, the son of Matthew Locke, of Rowan County, North Carolina. Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 384.

⁹⁵ Major George Hanger, an eccentric and profligate member of the "fast set" which revolved around the Prince of Wales, later George IV, commanded Tarleton's legion in the skirmish at Charlotte, because of Tarleton's illness. Later the author of several books, Hanger prophesied in one of them, *The Life and Opinions of Colonel George Hanger*, that eventually the northern and southern states would fight as vigorously against each other as they had done in unison against the British. Stedman, *History of the American War*, II, 216; Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 195; McCrady, *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780*, 604-605 n.

⁹⁶ These two captains are unidentifiable.

⁹⁷ Roderick Mackenzie, *Strictures on Lt. Col. Tarleton's History "Of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, In the Southern Provinces of North America" . . . Wherein Military Characters and Corps are Vindicated from Injurious Aspersions, And Several Important Transactions Placed in Their Proper Point of View. In a Series of Letters To A Friend . . . To Which Is Added, A Detail of the Siege of Ninety-Six, And the Re-Capture of the Island of New-Providence* (London: Printed for the Author; And Sold by R. Jameson, Strand; R. Faulder, New Bond-Street; T. and J. Egerton, Charing Cross, and T. Sewell, Cornhill, M DCC LXXXVIII), hereinafter cited as Mackenzie, *Strictures*.

⁹⁸ John Taylor represented Granville County at the provincial congress in August, 1775, and in April, 1776. Wheeler, *Sketches*, I, 78; II, 162.

⁹⁹ The pencil correction by Hubbard is correct.

¹⁰⁰ This, of course, refers to Major Patrick Ferguson's defeat and death at King's Mountain, October 7, 1780.

¹⁰¹ See Mackenzie, *Strictures*, 48, for the account of how a "Presbyterean fanatic" led the entire British army astray. The actual date of their departure from Charlotte was not October 14, but October 12. See Blackwell P. Robinson, *William R. Davie* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1957), 79-81, hereinafter cited as Robinson, *William R. Davie*.

¹⁰² See map, p. 6.

¹⁰³ The volume and page references to Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, were not to the first edition, which was printed for the author in London, 1788, but to one of the three American editions:

1st: New York: Hodge, Allen and Campbell, 3 volumes, 1789.

2nd: New York: Samuel Campbell, 3 volumes, 1794.

3rd: New York: Samuel Campbell, 3 volumes, 1801.

All such references hereinafter have been converted to the original edition. This one refers to III, 444.

¹⁰⁴ Major Archibald Anderson, of the Third Maryland Regiment. Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, III, 444. Yet Scharf maintains he was of the First Maryland Regiment. He is also listed in McSherry as having been a first lieutenant in the Fourth Maryland Independent Company in 1776 and a captain in the Second Battalion of Maryland regulars, organized March

27, 1777. See J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Maryland, From the Earliest Period to the Present Day* (Baltimore: Published by John B. Pret, 2 volumes, 1879), II, 416; James McSherry, *History of Maryland; From Its First Settlement in 1634 to the Year 1848* (Baltimore: Printed and Published by John Murphy, 1849), 379, 384, hereinafter cited as McSherry, *History of Maryland*.

¹⁰⁵ Refers to Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, III, 448-449.

¹⁰⁶ Refers to Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, III, 467.

¹⁰⁷ Refers to Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, III, 470-471.

¹⁰⁸ James Wemyss had been appointed captain in the Fortieth Regiment, March 14, 1771, had served under Generals Gage and Howe, and had been aide-de-camp to Major General Robertson in 1775. Appointed major of the Sixty-third Regiment August 10, 1778, he was taken prisoner in November, 1780. He was later lieutenant colonel of the same regiment. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 463. This affair took place on November 9, not November 12, 1780. Robinson, *William R. Davie*, 85-86.

¹⁰⁹ Brigadier General Daniel Morgan, the hero of Cowpens, had recently been placed by Gates in command of the troops in western North Carolina. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIII, 166.

¹¹⁰ See map, frontispiece.

¹¹¹ About 20 miles.

¹¹² The remainder of the account of this affair with Major Weymss appears on a loose sheet, pencilled page 51. A more embellished version, related by Davie to Parson Mason L. Weems, was later submitted by the latter to the *Charleston Courier*, in which it appeared March 7, 1823. It was also reprinted in Emily Ellsworth Skell (ed.), *Mason Locke Weems, His Works and Ways. In Three Volumes. A Bibliography Left Unfinished by Paul Leicester Ford* (New York: Emily E. E. Skell, 3 volumes, 1929), III, 353-355.

¹¹³ Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, IV, 48-49.

¹¹⁴ Colonel John Pyle of Chatham County, North Carolina, had been a regulator, whose wagons and other property had been impressed by Governor William Tryon after the battle of Alamance. Later, as a result of having taken the oath of allegiance to George III, he became a tory as a matter of conscience. At this time he had raised a band of about 300 tories, most of whom were also former regulators, between the Haw and Deep rivers. The ensuing action, which occurred February 25, 1781, near the present town of Burlington, is described in some detail in Lee, *Memoirs*, 256-259; in McCrady, *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1780-1783*, 122-125; Greene, *Greene*, III, 179-183; Hoyt, *Murphey Papers*, II, 273-276. As a physician he rendered such faithful and skillful services to the wounded whigs after the battle of Cane Creek, a few months after this skirmish, that he was pardoned by executive authority.

¹¹⁵ Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, IV, 50-52

¹¹⁶ Located on Reedy Fork Creek, shortly above where it flows into the Haw River. Gordon's description of this skirmish at Whitsill's or Wetzell's or Weitzel's Mill is at variance with that in Lee, *Memoirs*, 265-267; Tarleton, *Campaigns*, 237; and Greene, *Greene*, III, 188, n. 2. See also Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781*, 287-292; Hoyt, *Murphey Papers*, II, 289-294.

¹¹⁷ This narrative of Colonel Otho Williams is reprinted in Johnson, *Greene*, I, 485-510. Otho Williams (March 1749-July 15, 1794), born in Prince George's County, Maryland, was made colonel of the Sixth Maryland Regiment December 10, 1776. He was in the battle of Monmouth, served as deputy adjutant general under Gates in 1780 and was present at the battle of Camden. He was appointed adjutant general by Nathanael Greene, Gates's successor, and commanded the rear guard during Greene's retreat across North Carolina. In the battles of Guilford Court House, Hobkirk Hill, and Eutaw Springs, he played a distinguished part and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on May 9, 1782. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XX, 284-285.

¹¹⁸ Dr. Hugh Williamson published his two-volume *History of North Carolina*, covering the period from 1584 to 1786, in 1812. However, as none of this information appears in this *History*, it is possible that Williamson was gathering material for a projected history and that this information would have been included. His correspondence with Davie fails to throw any light on the matter, except for the fact that Davie wrote his friend, General Duncan Cameron, of Orange County, North Carolina, that he owed William Boylan, of Raleigh, the sum of \$4.50 for the book—which he felt was “a hard bargain.” Davie to General Cameron, September 5, 1813, Cameron Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

¹¹⁹ Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, IV, 53-57.

¹²⁰ The North Carolina militia at this time consisted of two brigades of about 500 men each, the first of which was commanded by Brigadier General John Butler (see note 5, *supra*), the second by Brigadier General Thomas Eaton of old Bute County (now Warren and Franklin counties). Eaton had been appointed colonel of the Bute militia in April, 1776, and represented Bute County at the provincial congress in November, 1776, which wrote the first North Carolina Constitution. He had also served under General Ashe at the battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779. Davie was not alone in lamenting that these two were in command. Both General Greene and Governor Abner Nash were desirous that Brigadier Jethro Sumner, a Continental officer, should have the command, but General Caswell, probably due to his jealousy of the Continentals, was adamant in the above two choices. See Wheeler, *Sketches*, I, 81, 85; Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781*, 264-268.

¹²¹ Brigadier General Edward Stevens (1745-August 17, 1820), born in Culpepper, Virginia, had commanded a battalion of riflemen at Great Bridge, near Norfolk, Virginia, at the beginning of the war and was appointed colonel of the Tenth Virginia regulars in 1776. Having distinguished himself at Brandywine and Germantown, he was appointed a brigadier general of Virginia militia and fought at Camden. Though wounded at Guilford, he rendered important services at Yorktown and later became a state senator. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 458.

¹²² General Robert Lawson, who had been appointed a major of the Fourth Virginia Regiment in February, 1776, and a colonel in 1777, commanded the Second Virginia Brigade at this time. He died in Richmond in April, 1805. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 441.

¹²³ The First Maryland Regiment, described by Fortescue as “the finest battalion in the American Army,” had seen service under Washington in all his New Jersey campaigns, had come south under DeKalb, after the fall of Charleston, and had performed heroically at Camden and Cowpens. It was commanded at this time by Colonel John Gunby, who had begun service as a captain of the Second Independent Company of Maryland, in 1776, and had later been appointed lieutenant colonel of the Second Maryland Battalion in March, 1777. Fortescue, *History of the British Army*, III, 372; Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781*, 327; McSherry, *History of Maryland*, 379, 384.

¹²⁴ The Second Maryland Regiment, a new levy, had never been in battle before. It was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Ford, who had begun service as a first lieutenant of the Maryland Battalion organized in 1776, and was promoted to major of the Second (Regular) Battalion, March 27, 1777. McSherry, *History of Maryland*, 379-384; Schenck, *North Carolina, 1780-1781*, 327; Lee, *Memoirs*, 276.

¹²⁵ Colonel Otho Williams. See note 117, *supra*.

¹²⁶ Captain Edward Oldham had been commissioned May 20, 1777, and was later assigned to the Fifth Maryland (Regular) Regiment, June 1, 1781. McSherry, *History of Maryland*, 389.

¹²⁷ Brigadier General Isaac Huger (March 19, 1742/43-October 17, 1797), of South Carolina, had been commissioned lieutenant colonel of the First South Carolina Regiment, June 17, 1775; colonel of the Fifth Continental Regiment, September 16, 1776; and brigadier general of the Southern Army, January 9, 1779. *Dictionary of American Biography*, IX, 344-345.

¹²⁸ This letter, to the president of Congress, dated March 6, 1781, is reprinted in Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 175-176.

¹²⁹ Lieutenant Colonel James Webster was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, about 1743. He was appointed major of the Thirty-third, Cornwallis's regiment, in February, 1771; lieutenant colonel in April, 1774; he had been active in the operations in New Jersey in 1777 and at Verplank's Point, May, 1779, after which he distinguished himself in Cornwallis's army in the South. He died in March, 1781, of a wound received at Guilford. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 463.

¹³⁰ Major General the Honorable Alexander Leslie (1731-1794) was the son of Alexander, the third Earl of Leven and Melville. He was commissioned major in 1759, lieutenant colonel of the Sixty-fourth Foot in 1766, and later aide-de-camp to the king. In America, he had commanded the light infantry at the battle of Long Island August 27, 1776, and at the close of the war was in command at Charleston. At the time of Guilford he commanded Bose's Hessian Regiment and Fraser's Highlanders. Fortescue, *History of the British Army*, III, 369; Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 442.

¹³¹ Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, IV, 82-86.

¹³² See note 117, *supra*.

¹³³ Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Hawes (1727-1780) served as captain, major, and lieutenant colonel in the Virginia troops and had been a member of the Committee of Safety of Caroline County, Virginia, where he was born and died. DAR, *Lineage Book*, CXXIII, 126, 153, 242.

¹³⁴ William Campbell (1745-August 22, 1781), born in Augusta County, Virginia, held the rank of colonel in the Virginia militia (1777-1780) and served as a justice in Washington County and a delegate to the Virginia legislature.

In the fall of 1780 Colonel Isaac Shelby urged him to join the "rear guard of the Revolution" against Patrick Ferguson. He led 400 men of Washington County to the rendezvous with Colonels Shelby and Sevier at Sycamore Shoals in the upper Watauga River. Campbell, of equal rank with the other colonels, was chosen officer of the day, for October 7, 1780, the date of the Battle of King's Mountain. There is some dubiety as to whether he was in the thick of the fight or whether—as claimed thirty years later by the other two colonels—he remained in the rear. He later fought at Guilford, March 15, 1781, under the direct command of General Henry Lee. He died August 22, 1781, at Rocky Mills, Hanover County, Virginia. *Dictionary of American Biography*, III, 465-466; sketch of Campbell in Lyman C. Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7th, 1780, and the Events Which Led To It* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thomson, 1881), 378-402, hereinafter cited as Draper, *King's Mountain*.

¹³⁵ Gordon, *History of the Rise of the United States*, IV, 87-88.

¹³⁶ Governor Joseph Reed of Pennsylvania. See *Dictionary of American Biography*, XV, 451-453.

¹³⁷ Greene's indictment in this same letter was not limited to North Carolina: "Virginia has exerted herself in giving a temporary support to the army; but her pleasure and her policy prevent her giving us such permanent aid, as her strength and resources are capable of affording.—Maryland has done nothing, nor can I hear of any exertions there equal to the emergency of war.—Delaware has not answered my letters.—These states have few men here, and those they have are daily discharged.—North Carolina has got next

to no regulars in the field, and few militia, and these the worst in the world, for they have neither pride nor principle to bind them to any party, or to a discharge of their duty."

¹³⁸ The next eleven pages in the MS are skipped and unnumbered. The remainder of the MS is continued on what would be pages 75-79.

¹³⁹ This refers to Chapter XIX of the *Laws of North Carolina*, passed at the General Assembly begun and held at New Bern, November 15, 1777. The act was entitled, "An Act to Enable the Governor to send an Aid from the Militia to oppose the Enemies of the United States, if the same shall be requested by Congress." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 128-129.

¹⁴⁰ This refers to Chapter II of the *Laws of North Carolina*, passed at the General Assembly begun and held at New Bern, April 14, 1778, which was continued to January 19, 1779, at Halifax. This act was entitled, "An Act for raising Forces for the defence of this and the neighbouring States and other purposes therein mentioned." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 198-199.

¹⁴¹ John Alexander Lillington came from Barbadoes and settled in what is now New Hanover County, where he built his seat, Lillington Hall, in 1734. A member of the Wilmington Committee of Safety and a colonel of militia, he was conspicuous at the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. He was promoted to brigadier and served under Gates in the Carolinas. Lossing, *Field-Book of the Revolution*, II, 379-381 n. 3.

¹⁴² This refers to Chapter I of the *Laws of North Carolina*, passed at the General Assembly begun and held at Halifax, October 18, 1779. The act was entitled, "An Act for raising forces for the defense of this and the neighboring states, and for other purposes." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 262.

¹⁴³ This refers to the number of North Carolinians in the garrison of Charleston.

¹⁴⁴ Isaac Gregory of Camden, North Carolina, was appointed to the District Committee of Safety from Edenton District by the provincial congress, August, 1775. In April, 1776, he was appointed colonel of the Second Militia Regiment for Pasquotank County and in November represented that county in the provincial congress. He was promoted to brigadier general, May 15, 1779. Clark, *State Records*, XIII, 782-783; Wheeler, *Sketches*, I, 73, 81.

¹⁴⁵ This refers to Chapter VIII of the *Laws of North Carolina*, passed at New Bern, 1778, first session. The act was entitled, "An Act for authorizing his excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Council of State, to send a relief to South Carolina of any number of men not exceeding Eight Thousand, if Absolutely Necessary." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 331-332.

¹⁴⁶ This refers to Chapter XXVI of the same session. The act was entitled, "An Act of granting aid to the State of South Carolina, and other purposes." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 339-341.

¹⁴⁷ This refers to Chapter X of the *Laws of North Carolina*, passed at Hillsborough, 1780, second session. The act was entitled, "An Act for Establishing a Board of War, and other purposes." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 355-357.

¹⁴⁸ Alexander Martin (1740-November 2, 1807), a native of New Jersey who moved to Guilford County, had been lieutenant colonel of the Second North Carolina Continental Regiment, September 1, 1775. He had participated in the "Snow campaign" against the loyalists in upper South Carolina in 1775, in the Moore's Creek campaign of February, 1776, and, after promotion to a colonelcy, in the defense of Charleston in June. The next year he joined Washington's army in the North, where he was arrested for cowardice in the battle of Germantown, tried by court-martial and acquitted. Resigning his commission, he returned to North Carolina and represented Guilford County in the Senate 1778-1782, 1785, 1787-1788 and was speaker at every session except those of 1778-1779. After serving on the Board of War and its succes-

sor, the Council Extraordinary, he was elected governor in 1782, 1783, and 1784. In 1786 he was elected to Continental Congress and in 1787 to the federal Constitutional Convention. He was again governor 1789-1792, thus exhausting the constitutional limit of three successive terms. Davie's animosity may perhaps be attributed to the Germantown affair and to Martin's break with the Federalist party in 1790. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XII, 333-334.

¹⁴⁹ John Penn (May 6, 1740-September 14, 1788) had moved in 1774 to Granville County, North Carolina, from Caroline County, Virginia, where he had practiced law. He was elected to the Continental Congress where he was one of the state's three signers of the Declaration of Independence. He continued to represent North Carolina in Philadelphia, 1777-1780. In 1780 he was appointed to the Board of War in which capacity he performed the major part of its work. A thankless job, it was unpopular with the army and opposed by the governor, since it curtailed his constitutional powers. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIV, 431.

¹⁵⁰ Orondates, or Oroondates, Davis of Halifax County, had been a lawyer, the clerk of the Halifax Committee of Safety, 1774 and 1775, and senator from Halifax in the General Assembly 1778-1781. Very little else is known of him. William L. Saunders (ed.), *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 10 volumes, 1886-1890), IX, 1102; X, 337, 584; Clark, *State Records*, XII, 549; Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 203; W. C. Allen, *History of Halifax County* (Boston: The Cornhill Company, 1918), 171-172.

¹⁵¹ John H. Wheeler submitted the following figures:

From Burke and Rutherford Counties [N. C.], commanded by Charles McDowell	160 men
From Wilkes and Surry Counties [N. C.], under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and Major Joseph Winston	350 men
From Washington County, North Carolina (now Tennessee), under John Sevier	240 men
From Sullivan County, North Carolina, now Tennessee, under Isaac Shelby	240 men
From Washington [County], Virginia, under Colonel William Campbell	400 men
	1390 men

Wheeler, *Sketches*, II, 101. James Iredell, however, writing to his wife, October 8, 1780, related: "A body of 1,500 men under officers of the name of Selby [Shelby] and McDowell, another 800 under Cleaveland, and a third under Col. Williams [James, of Granville], were very near each other, and expected to join, the day after the accounts came away, in pursuit of him [Ferguson]." Griffith J. McRee, *Life and Correspondence of James Iredell, One of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States* (New York: D. Appleton, 2 volumes, 1857), I, 464.

¹⁵² Benjamin Cleveland (May 26, 1738-October, 1806) moved from Prince William County, Virginia, about 1769, to North Carolina on Roaring Creek, near the Blue Ridge. At the outbreak of the Revolution, he became ensign, later lieutenant and captain of the Second Regiment of North Carolina militia. He served with General Rutherford 1778-1779 in Georgia, but returned home after General John Ashe's defeat at Briar Creek. Elected to the state senate and promoted to colonel, he commanded the left flank of patriot forces at King's Mountain. *Dictionary of American Biography*, IV, 202-203.

¹⁵³ Isaac Shelby (December 11, 1750-July 18, 1826) was commander of a volunteer regiment across the mountains, in what is now Kentucky, when he received a threatening message from Ferguson. Fired with greater determina-

tion, he initiated and, in concert with John Sevier and others, organized and conducted the expedition against Ferguson. He was later the first governor of Kentucky. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVII, 60-62.

¹⁵⁴ John Sevier (September 23, 1745-September 24, 1815), born near New Market, Virginia, moved to what is now Tennessee, where he organized and led two hundred and forty men across the Smokies to King's Mountain. He was the first governor of Tennessee and served from 1796 to 1801 and again from 1803 to 1809. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVI, 602-604.

¹⁵⁵ Charles McDowell (c. 1743-March 31, 1815) was born in Winchester, Virginia, and moved to Quaker Meadows (near Morganton), Burke County, North Carolina. After the outbreak of the Revolution he was commissioned captain and in April, 1776, lieutenant colonel of a militia regiment. Operating in the backwater section of the South, he had rendered valuable service as commander of one of the rear-guards of the Revolution. Upon Ferguson's attempted invasion of North Carolina, McDowell promptly sent word over the mountains to Shelby, requesting immediate aid and, though he was not present at King's Mountain, he thereby contributed much to its success. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XII, 23-24.

¹⁵⁶ An exhaustive search has failed to reveal this "relation," though it possibly may refer to a MS statement of Major Joseph McDowell, his brother, which, according to Lyman C. Draper was preserved by "the late Robert Henry, of Buncombe Co., N. C." Draper, *King's Mountain*, 119 n.

¹⁵⁷ Allen Jones (December 24, 1739-November 14, 1807) was the son of Robert or Robin Jones, attorney general of North Carolina under the crown, and brother of the more famous Willie Jones, the radical whig. He had aided Tryon against the regulators, been clerk of the Superior Court for Halifax District, and served in the House of Commons for Northampton County, 1773-1775. He represented his county in all five provincial congresses, 1774-1776, and served as brigadier general of militia for Halifax District 1776-1783, alternating between civil and military service. *Dictionary of American Biography*, X, 159-160.

¹⁵⁸ This refers to Chapter I of the *Laws of North Carolina*, passed at the General Assembly begun and held at New Bern, April 14, 1778, first session. The act was entitled, "An Act for raising Men to complete the Continental Battalions belonging to this State." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 154-157.

¹⁵⁹ This refers to Chapter XXV of the *Laws of North Carolina*, passed at the General Assembly, begun and held at New Bern April, 1780, first session. The act was entitled, "An Act for raising men to compleat the Continental Battalions belonging to this State, and other Purposes." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 339.

¹⁶⁰ This refers to Chapter I of the *Laws of North Carolina*, passed at the General Assembly, begun and held at Hillsborough April 13, 1782, first session. The act was entitled, "An Act for Raising troops to compleat the Continental Battalions of the State, and other purposes." Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 413-417.

Footnotes: Part Two

¹ Edward Carrington (February 11, 1749—October 28, 1810) had been commissioned a lieutenant colonel of Harrison's Artillery November 30, 1776, after which he was detached with a portion of this regiment to the south and made a prisoner at Charleston. After his exchange he was employed by Gates and Greene, the latter appointing him quartermaster general. With the aid of a Captain Smith of the Maryland line, they explored the Dan River, where he made every preparation for Greene's army to cross it. He later commanded the artillery and performed well at Hobkirk's Hill, April 24, 1781, and also at Yorktown. In 1785-1786 he was a delegate to Continental Congress and was foreman of the jury in Aaron Burr's trial in 1807. James Grant Wilson and John Fiske (eds.), *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 7 volumes, 1887-1900), I, 535; Henry B. Carrington, *Battles of the American Revolution, 1775-1781: Historical and Military Criticism, with Topographical Illustrations* (New Orleans: A. D. Barnes & Company, 1876), Fourth Edition, 530-531.

² On February 25, 1780, the Continental Congress had abandoned its existing commissary arrangement by which money had been requisitioned from the states to subsist the army. From that date, the states were severally called upon to support the war by specific contributions—a system described as the *dernier resort*. V. L. Johnson, *The Administration of the American Commissariat During the Revolutionary War* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1941), 183, hereinafter cited as Johnson, *The American Commissariat*; Johnson, *Greene*, I, 343.

³ Colonel Thomas Polk, of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, had acted as commissary general of provisions for North Carolina and as commissary of purchases for the Continental troops. As a result of responsibility to two masters, dependence upon county commissioners over whom he had no control, and other more serious factors, his usefulness was so impaired that he drew expressions of lack of confidence from his superiors. General Smallwood had serious complaints because of his failure to supply "Provisions even to the Continental Troops," while Gates charged that "his conduct was deemed doubtful and suspicious." Polk felt, therefore, that since "his Countrymen suspected his Fidelity, he would no longer act as Commissary, than until he had delivered Five Hundred Beeves, and One Thousand Bushels of Corn." He continued in office, however, until after the arrival of Greene, who "could have wished the Col to have filled the place as he appears to be a man of some resource and influence at large." Polk's excuse, in a letter of December 10, 1780, to Greene was that he was "now too far advanced in years to undergo the task and fatigue of a commissary-general" and on the same day Greene wrote Davis that Polk had found "the business of subsisting the army too laborious and difficult for him to conduct," but that "the greatest difficulty with him, is, he cannot leave home, owing to the peculiar state of his family." Greene to the Board of War, December 14, 1780, W. R. Davie Papers, No. 2, Southern Historical Collection; Gates to the Board of War, November 17, 1780,

Jethro Sumner Papers, Southern Historical Collection; D. L. Swain to Benson J. Lossing, July 20, 1852, D. L. Swain Papers, Southern Historical Collection; *Dictionary of American Biography*, XV, 42-43; Greene, *Greene*, III, 75-76.

⁴ This is slightly at variance with a communication from the Board of War to Governor Abner Nash, dated December 2, 1780, according to which Nash was informed of a proposition in regard to the raising of a regiment of militia cavalry, to be commanded by Davie, who was at that time without a command. This regiment, to be composed of six troops, was to be incorporated with a regiment of light infantry, thereby forming "a kind of Legion." The board, as well as General Smallwood, was "anxious to retain Colonel Davie in the service . . . having a high Idea of his Military Merit." Clark, *State Records*, XIV, 471-472.

⁵ Greene had already written the Board of War, December 14, 1780, of Polk's resignation and had reported further that "Col Davie of this place has been proposed and I have written him on the subject." He had also spoken to "Major Read of this state to fill the place if Co Davie should decline." Diplomatically he added that he only meant to "suggest" these characters, "but not to solicit their appointments further than is perfectly correspondent with the views of the Board and the interest of the State." In writing to Davie four days before, however, he had been somewhat more insistent: "Your character and standing in this country lead me to believe you are the most suitable person to succeed him. It is a place of great consequence to the army, and all our future operations depend upon it. As you are a single man, and have health, education, and activity to manage the business, it is my wish you should accept the appointment, especially as you have an extensive influence among the inhabitants, and are upon a good footing, and much respected in the army." W. R. Davie Papers, No. 2, Southern Historical Collection; Greene, *Greene*, III, 75-76.

⁶ After a period of almost three decades, Davie was somewhat hazy as to his movements. As a matter of fact, Greene's recommendations were undoubtedly to the Board of War. Davie, according to his letter to Greene, January 6, 1781, after going to Hillsborough and Granville, finally found Alexander Martin and Orondates Davis (two of the members) in Halifax. However, they were reluctant to assume the needed responsibility, being "embarrassed by the insufficiency of the late act of Assembly," the "Novelty of the System," and "Delicasy in *assuming* powers foreign from their Appointment." They assured Davie that it would be "the first thing on the political Tapis" of the assembly, then collecting, which would "use the most vigorous efforts, in concert with us, for the immediate regulation and supply of that Department" and that they would vest Davie "with all the powers they can for the present." Therefore, according to a letter from the Board of War to Greene, January 5, 1781, "Colonel Davie hath an Appointment for that purpose to superintend Salisbury District, with powers to call on any Superintendent for supplies while the Army is in that district or its Vicinity." W. R. Davie Papers, No. 2, Southern Historical Collection; Clark, *State Records*, XIV, 486.

⁷ Even hazier was Davie in this instance. Though, as we have seen, the board hesitated to make such an appointment, it was this agency which finally on January 16 conferred on Davie the office of "Superintendent Commissary Genl. of provision Supplies for the State of No. Carolina." In this capacity he was "to superintend all the County Commissioners of provision Supplies in the State of North Carolina and from them supply the different Posts of the Army in the said State or Vicinity thereof." He could also "make Requisition from them of all provision Supplies for the Army." Four assistants and a clerk were allowed him in this work. Clark, *State Records*, XIV, 490-491.

⁸ This specific provision tax had been the first act passed by the General Assembly which met in Hillsborough, September 5, 1780. By this act, the sheriff of each county was instructed to call the justices of the peace together to elect a purchasing commissioner for each county. This commissioner was to purchase foodstuffs in accordance with the prices indicated in the congressional resolution of February 25, 1780, and had the power to impress provisions when he deemed it necessary. District superintendents were to direct the storing of provisions in accordance with directions given by the commanding officer of the Southern Army. The state Board of War was at the pinnacle of the pyramid. Davie's new position placed him directly over the district superintendents. Clark, *State Records*, XXIV, 344-347.

⁹ See map, frontispiece.

¹⁰ Robert Forsyth had been appointed deputy commissary general of purchases for the Southern Army December 2, 1780, by Ephraim Blaine, the Continental commissary general. He had been instructed to establish large magazines of provisions and to urge the legislatures of the states to be punctual in complying with the requisitions of Congress. He was then ordered to proceed southward with all possible dispatch to present himself to Greene. Johnson, *The American Commissariat*, 186. For his later collusion with John Banks, of the firm of Hunter & Banks of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in securing a monopoly of the articles of clothing in the hand of British merchants at the time of the evacuation of Charleston by the British, see McCrady, *South Carolina in the Revolution, 1780-1783*, 677-683.

¹¹ This note also appears in the edition edited by Robert E. Lee, 337-338.

¹² Captain Perry Benson, of James County, Maryland, was commissioned ensign in the Maryland Fourth Battalion, in 1776 and on March 27, 1777, he was made a first lieutenant in the Fifth (Continental) Battalion under Brigadier General Smallwood. On March 11, 1778, he was promoted to captain of the Fifth Maryland Regiment, under the reorganization of 1781. McSherry, *History of Maryland*, 385, 389.

¹³ Captain Simon Morgan of Fauquier County, Virginia, was commissioned ensign of the Eighth Virginia (Continental) Regiment, December 10, 1775. He had been made captain March 15, 1778, and was transferred to the Seventh Virginia Regiment February 12, 1781. Though wounded at Eutaw Springs, he served to the close of the war. F. B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April, 1775, to December, 1783* (Washington: F. B. Heitman, 1893), 300, hereinafter cited as Heitman, *Register*; DAR, *Lineage Book*, CLIX, 56.

¹⁴ Captain Robert Kirkwood, of the First Delaware (Continental) Regiment, was described by Light Horse Harry Lee as "the brave, meritorious, unrewarded Kirkwood." Educated for the Presbyterian ministry, he entered the army at the age of twenty and distinguished himself in thirty-two actions in the next six years. For his interesting journal and orderly book, see Joseph Brown Turner (ed.), "The Journal and Order Book of Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Regiment of the Continental Line. Part I: A Journal of the Southern Campaign 1780-1782. Part II: An Order Book of the Campaign in New Jersey, 1777," *Papers of the Historical Society of Delaware*, LVI (Wilmington: The Historical Society of Delaware, 1910), 1-277. Also Lee, *Memoirs*, 96 n.; Lynn Montrose, *Rag, Tag and Bobtail: The Story of the Continental Army, 1775-1783* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1952), 8; Heitman, *Register*, 252.

¹⁵ Lieutenant Colonel John Watson had entered the Foot Guards as captain in 1767 and on November 20, 1778, was commissioned lieutenant

colonel. He later advanced by stages to general in 1808 and died at Calais in June, 1826. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 463.

¹⁶ George Washington Greene was somewhat more tolerant of Sumter, who "could not bend his proud spirit to subordinate cooperation," and who found "excuses for holding aloof from the main army," on the ground that "he had been accustomed to act alone, and in the preceding campaigns had rendered important service in keeping alive the spirit of resistance." Greene, *Greene*, III, 256.

¹⁷ Probably May 3. Greene, *Greene*, III, 271.

¹⁸ Also called Sandy's Creek, "five miles up the river" from Greene's former position at Twenty-five Miles Creek. Above Camden, on the Wateree, it is on the border of Fairfield County. Greene, *Greene*, III, 276; Lossing, *Field-Book of the Revolution*, II, 475.

¹⁹ This creek was four miles higher up the river. Greene, *Greene*, III, 276.

²⁰ Lieutenant Colonel J. Harris Cruger was born in New York in 1738 and had married a daughter of General De Lancey. He had been a member of the New York council and was chamberlain of the city at the outbreak of the Revolution. Joining the loyalist forces, he commanded the First Battalion of De Lancey's Provincial Corps. He relieved Colonel Browne at Augusta in September, 1780, fought gallantly at Ninety-Six in May, 1781, and was distinguished at Eutaw Springs in September. He retired to England after the war, as a result of which his property was confiscated. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis Controversy*, II, 425-426.

About the Author

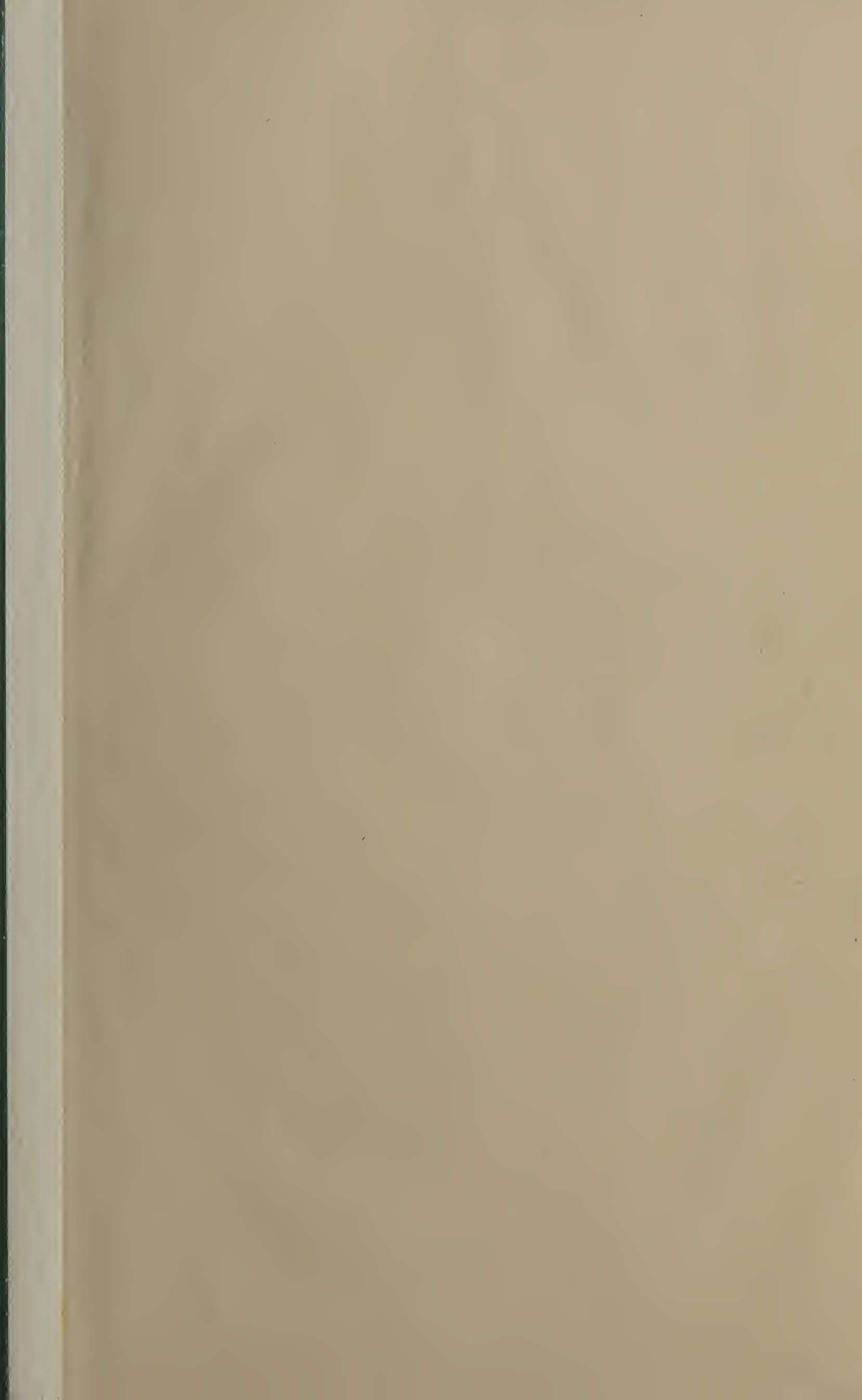
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